

The Calendrics of Hanukkah

The phases of the moon in a lunar month:



The date of Hanukkah:

Hanukkah begins on the 25th of Kislev. The candles are lit at sunset the previous night. Here is how much we can see of the moon on each night:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Candle – 24 th → 25 th Kislev – 24% | 5 Candles – 28 th → 29 th Kislev – 0% |
| 2 Candles – 25 th → 26 th Kislev – 15% | 6 Candles – 29 th → 30 th Kislev – 0% |
| 3 Candles – 26 th → 27 th Kislev – 7% | 7 Candles – 30 th → Rosh Chodesh Tevet – 2% |
| 4 Candles – 27 th → 28 th Kislev – 2% | 8 Candles – 1 st → 2 nd Tevet – 7% |

Kislev is the month that ends closest to the winter solstice. As we light more candles we move toward the darkest night of the darkest month. When all the candles are lit, we see the sliver of the moon, just as the sun is beginning its journey back to longer days. Our lights prime the pump of celestial light.