

PHILOTORAH

לה"ו

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו וא'להי אבותינו שתשלח מהרה רפואה שלמה מן השמים, רפואת הנפש ורפואת הגוף לחולי קורונה – בישראל, בעם היהודי, ובעולם, ולנפגעי מעשי טרור ואנטישמיות – בכל מקום שהם, עם שאר חולי ישראל. אמן.



Yerushalayim in/out times for **VAYEITZEI**

ט' כסלו ה'תשפ"ג • Dec 2-3, '22

🕯️ 4:00PM Plag 3:31PM • 🕯️🏰 5:14PM R' Tam 5:51PM

For other locales, click on Z'MANIM link

Kiddush L'vana

The molad of Kislev was on Wednesday (Nov 23) 22h 28m 8p

The last op for KL is the (average) NIGUD (opposition), when the Moon and the Sun are opposite each other from our perspective on Earth.

The (average) NIGUD is the mid-point between the molad of the current month and the molad of the following month.

Since the average time of a lunation (the time it takes the Moon to cycle through its phases) is 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 1 cheilek (part - 3 and a third seconds), then the NIGUD will be 14 days, 18 hours 22 minutes and half of a cheilek after the molad of the current month.

For Kislev 5783, that puts the NIGUD on Thursday (Dec 8th - the 14th of Kislev) at 16h 50m 8.5p, which is before sunset of Thursday.

All this means that the last opportunity for Kiddush L'vana this month is all night Wednesday, Dec. 7th (until dawn of Thu. Dec. 8th).

Remember that during the rainy season, there will probably be nights without a clear view of the Moon for KL - so keep

checking.

First ops for different minhagim were/are Sunday night, Nov. 27th; Thursday night, Dec. 1st; and Motza"Sh, Dec. 3rd. It is highly recommended to try for the earlier first op, to minimize the risk of missing KL altogether.

The real first Chanuka?

The Gemara in Masechet Avoda Zara tells us that when Adam HaRishon noticed that the day was getting shorter and shorter (as winter approached), he said: Woe unto me, perhaps because I sinned (by eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil), the world is getting darker and darker and is returning to TOHU VAVOHU (chaos and nothingness), and this is the death for me declared by Heaven. He stood (decided) and sat for 8 days in fasting and prayer. When he noticed that the days were beginning to get longer after T'kufat Tevet (the winter solstice), he said, this is the way of the world. He went and made an 8-day holiday. The following year, he made both 8-day periods into holidays. He acted for the sake of Heaven, but they (future generations) turn them (the mid-winter holidays) towards paganism and idolatry.

That's the Gemara. Here's an added thought... Adam HaRishon established an 8-day holiday in the middle of the winter, when the days begin to get longer. Pagans and idolaters perverted Adam's sincere motives with their mid-winter holidays.

More than 3600 years after Adam's holiday, the Chashmona'im declared an 8-day mid-winter holiday, for the sake of Heaven, to thank G-d for victories and miracles... and perhaps to restore Adam's original celebration, that for so long had lost its way, to the original goal of thanking the One G-d. Gives you some- thing to think about (and another DT for one of the nights of Chanuka).