The WHY EIGHT Question

Known as the **Beit Yosef's Question**, (although it seems to have predated him by many years), it is this:

If a one day supply of oil miraculously lasted for 8 days, then there are 7 days of miracle - so why is Chanuka 8 days?

There are dozens and dozens of answers from many individuals over the last 400-500 years. For example...

- Knowing that 8 days were needed for a new supply of oil, they only put 1/8 of their supply in the Menorah each night, expecting a few hours of light. Miraculously, each night's oil lasted through the night. 8 days of miracle.

- After they filled the oil cups on the first night, they expected the flask to be empty. Miraculously, the flask remained full.

- Seven days of the holiday were for the miracle of the oil, and an eighth day for the victory over the Yevanim.

- There is an opinion that the correct wording of the Chanuka story is: "They didn't even find a full night's supply of oil." That which they found was insufficient even for one night - hence, 8 days of miracle.

- They used thinner wicks to go along with their meager supply of oil, and the miracle was that the lamps burned with the full brightness of the regular wicks.

- The natural fact that olive oil burns with a nice, clean flame is also a miracle, just of a different kind. Nature is miraculous too.

- Eight represents MEI'AL LATEVA, above nature, appropriate for the celebration of a miracle that also was outside the parameters of nature.

- **Eight day holiday was declared because of the mitzva of BRIT MILA which was denied the people.**

The Greeks attempted to separate the Jew from his Torah; to assimilate us into their culture. Many decrees served this goal. Among all the targets of Greek oppression, there was one that had an additional element besides 'just' separating us from Torah - BRIT MILA. This specific mitzva was a special target of the Greeks because they were idealogically and philosphically opposed to it, considering it to be an abomination and mutilation of the body, which they idealized and 'worshiped'. B'NEI VINA, men of deep understanding, fixed Chanuka at 8 days (with HaShem's stamp of approval - the miracle of the oil) to make our victory on this issue (and all the others), clear to the whole world.