

Rabbi Kacev for Channukah .Kislev 5769

SHABBAT CHANNUKAH/PARSHAT MIKETZ

There is a wonderful ancient poem written by **Rabbi Shlomo ben Eliyahu**, known as the Sharbit hazahav (15TH Century) which he calls “The argument between Shabbat and Chanukah”, and an interesting way to teach numerous laws of both.

Shabbat asks Chanukah: Who are you, imposter!

Chanukah responds: But they say Hallel for me, not for you.

Shabbat answers back: I need no Hallel, my sanctity is expressed in the saying of mussaf.

Chanukah then retorts: They light my candles first and mention me in benching before you!

Shabbat responds: I am here every week; you only arrive on the scene once a year.

The argument goes on, revealing the essence of each aspect of Shabbat and Chanukah. A short focus on either will reveal that both Shabbat and Chanukah have candles to express an element of their message and there in lies an important lesson for us.

The Shabbat candles express the idea of peace in the home. The spread the message of the Jewish people built upon the home, the family, nurturing, caring and family building as well as welcoming others in to the home. Therefore these candles are lit in the house.

Chanukah candles are lit at the entrance to the home or at a place where they can be seen by passersby. They tell all humanity of miracles sending a message beyond the confines of the home. The Jew teaches the world of a loving, caring, interested and involved G-d through whom miracles were and are performed for us.

An interesting argument, but really the dual message of the Jewish people; a focus on the home and its values while also spreading a message to the world.

May you all have a Shabbat Shalom and a Chanukah Sameach

Rabbi Kacev