



Hanukkah: Beyond Eight Days of Oil –

**An Ancient but
Very Contemporary
Holiday**

**With Cliff Wilcox
Thursday, December 2
7 p.m.- 9 p.m. on Zoom**

(We will begin with a hanukkah lighting and blessings!)

While Hanukkah is a minor holiday in the Jewish Calendar, it has come to hold deep significance for Jews, particularly in the United States. The story of Hanukkah is typically summed up in a description of the surprise military victory in 165 BCE - a small army of Jews led by the Maccabees defeated the powerful Greek-Syrians - and the religious miracle of the oil used for rededication of the temple, which lasted for eight days despite being sufficient for only a single day of burning.

Hanukkah has developed as a warm family-centric holiday focused on celebration of the miracle of the oil and Jewish self-preservation in face of powerful odds. Yet Hanukkah holds layers of meaning that go far beyond the traditional story. Examination of the holiday of Hanukkah from its ancient beginnings to the present offers a powerful view into the challenges Jews have faced over the centuries in remaining Jewish, especially in light of a perpetual status as a minority culture. This lecture will explore the historical origins, development, and contemporary impact of the Hanukkah holiday, particularly for American Jews.