Chanukah, which means dedication, celebrates the successful revolt that happened over 2,000 years ago against an oppressive regime that limited the rights of Jewish people and took over the Jews' sacred Temple. When The Temple was re-taken and re-dedicated, a small amount of oil was expected to burn for a short time, but instead it burned for eight days, which is why Chanukah lasts eight days. While a minor holy day, Chanukah has evolved in importance in America in response to the similar timing of the major Christian holiday, Christmas.