

The Shema

"These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

- Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The Purpose for This Series:

1. To understand our heritage as Christians.
2. To appreciate the concept of placing God's Word upon our hearts.
3. To see God's plan for remembering, fulfilling and even teaching His Word.

The Setting

- Ready to enter the Promised Land! — Final instructions.
- These are rules for OUR benefit.

*"Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may **go well with you** and that you may **increase greatly** in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you."*

- Deuteronomy 6:3

The Pledge – (The Shema)

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."

- Deuteronomy 6:4

Sh'ma Yisrael Yehovah Elohaynu Yehovah Echad.

The Importance of the Shema —

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'"

- Mark 12:29

“Hear” — Listen!!!

“The Lord is Our God” — the word GOD is plural.

“The Lord is One” — the word ONE is "united."

The Progressive Passion

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

- Deuteronomy 6:5

- *Love the Lord your God* — stated 10 times in Deuteronomy and nowhere else in the Books of Moses.

- *With all your heart* — it has to be your desire (intrinsic)

Will-Power vs. Want-Power.

“Be careful what you set your heart on, for it might come true!

“Love God, then do as you please.” - Augustine

- *With all your soul* — the word is “nephesh” it is difficult —

Probably refers to your life or your total existence!

- *With all your strength* — indicates action!

Many Jews interpret this to be “resources.”

Note the word "all" in each phrase!

The Place for these Words

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts."

- Deut. 6:6

- The word for “upon” is “yome” which means perpetually or continually. Contrast this with the word “today.”

- What does it look like when God’s Word is etched in hearts!

- Consider man’s failures and God’s promise:

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

- Jeremiah 31:33

Some Questions to Consider

1. What is my pledge? (The first thing I think about in the morning and the last before going to sleep at night?)
2. How much of ME does God have?

<i>My Interest</i>	<i>My Intellect</i>	<i>My Heart</i>	<i>My Soul</i>	<i>My Strength</i>
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3. If someone watched my words and actions this week would they say that I have God’s Word etched on my heart?

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"Hear" —

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"The Lord is One" — the word ONE is "_____."

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