

Introduction to Shema

“ShemaYisrael, AdonaiEloheynu, AdonaiEchad.

Baruch Shem Kevod, MalchutoL’OlamVaed”

“Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart,

and with all thy soul and with all thy might.”

Next to the Shabbat, “ShemaYisrael” is the most prominent confession of a Hebraic Roots identity– and it’s a concept that is quoted by Yeshua in the Gospel of Mark (12:29) and the Gospel of Matthew (22:37).

In the book of Mark, a young lawyer asks Yeshua what he considers to be the most important commandment.

Yeshua replies: “The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

In Matthew, a slightly condensed version appears in that Yeshua says: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.”

In studying the Shema, you can see that God advises us, as a common practice to pray at least three times a day:

When you rise

when you sit in your house and walk by the way (in the midst of your day)

when you lie down

Both of the Mathew and Mark quotes are immediately a recognized reference to the Shema and in so doing,

Yeshua confirms the importance of the Shema, as is practiced in the Hebrew Roots Movement of today.

We can tell the Apostle Paul also identified with the Shema in 1 Corinthians 8:4, when he said, “...and that there

is none other God, but one.”

Incidentally, these scriptures are contained in a Mezuzah as a means to comply with the command of “write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates.”

Shema

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

‘And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.’ Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, lest the LORD’s anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

“For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him— (Deuteronomy 11:13-22)

Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.” (Numbers 15:37-41)