

Loving God

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

The Shema (“Hear”) (v. 4)

- ▶ ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”***
- ▶ This statement is the basic confession of faith in Judaism.

The Shema (“Hear”) (v. 4)

- ▶ ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”***
- ▶ While there are different good translations of the Hebrew here, they all speak about Yahweh’s uniqueness.

The Shema (“Hear”) (v. 4)

- ▶ ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”***
- ▶ Yahweh alone is God.
- ▶ Thus, the other gods are not real and are not worthy of service and devotion.

The Shema (“Hear”) (v. 4)

- ▶ ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”***
 - ▶ The Israelites could have a sense of security that was impossible for their polytheistic neighbors to have.
 - ▶ Their gods were unpredictable and morally capricious.

The Shema (“Hear”) (v. 4)

- ▶ ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”***
 - ▶ Israel only had to deal with one God, who dealt with them according to a revealed, consistent, righteous standard.

The Shema (“Hear”) (v. 4)

- ▶ ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”***
- ▶ This statement does not preclude the doctrine of the Trinity.
 - ▶ God is plural (*Elohim*) , possibly implying the Trinity.

The Shema (“Hear”) (v. 4)

- ▶ ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”***
 - ▶ And “one” (*ehad*) may suggest a unity of Persons in the Godhead. The same word is used for Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:24).

The Shema (“Hear”) (v. 4)

- ▶ ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”***
- ▶ Yahweh demands total devotion (v. 5)

The Great Commandment (v. 5)

- ▶ ***“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”***
- ▶ To love the Lord means:
 - ▶ To choose Him for an intimate relationship;
 - ▶ Faith and trust in God
 - ▶ Dependence upon God

The Great Commandment (v. 5)

- ▶ ***“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”***
- ▶ To love the Lord means:
 - ▶ To obey His commands.

The Great Commandment (v. 5)

- ▶ *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”*
- ▶ This command to love the Lord is commonly found in Deuteronomy (7:9; 10:12; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3; 19:9; 30:6, 16, 20).

The Great Commandment (v. 5)

- ▶ *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”*
 - ▶ We are to love God with all of our being.
 - ▶ Yahweh demands total devotion.

How to be totally devoted (vv. 6-9)

- ▶ ***“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.”*** (v. 6)
 - ▶ Meditate on the commandments (Deuteronomy 5:6-21).

How to be totally devoted (vv. 6-9)

- ▶ *“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”* (v. 7)
 - ▶ Impress the commandments on your children.
 - ▶ Not only through formal teaching
 - ▶ But in real life situations, making God and His word the natural topic of conversation.

How to be totally devoted (vv. 6-9)

- ▶ *“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”* (v. 7)
 - ▶ This can take place anywhere at anytime during the day.
 - ▶ Often spiritual lessons are caught more than taught.

How to be totally devoted (vv. 6-9)

- ▶ *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.* (vv. 8-9)
- ▶ These commands are taken literally by some Jewish groups.
 - ▶ Hasidic Jews tie phylacteries to their foreheads and left arms.
 - ▶ They attach *mezuzot* to the door frames of their houses.

Phylactery and Mezuzot



How to be totally devoted (vv. 6-9)

- ▶ *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. (vv. 8-9)*
- ▶ However, there is reason to believe that they should be understood figuratively.
 - ▶ Exodus 13:9, 16

How to be totally devoted (vv. 6-9)

- ▶ *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. (vv. 8-9)*
- ▶ Keep the commandments ever before you.

Loving God is . . .

- ▶ A matter of perception.
 - ▶ Knowing that God is unique.
 - ▶ Knowing that there is no other God.

Loving God is . . .

- ▶ A matter of commitment.
 - ▶ Committing ourselves to an intimate, covenant relationship with God.
 - ▶ Being totally devoted to Him.

Loving God is . . .

- ▶ A matter of obedience.
 - ▶ Expressing that commitment through **meditating** on God's word.
 - ▶ Expressing that commitment through **obeying** God's word.