

Yeshua declares the Shema

"6¹Now this is the commandment, the statutes and ordinances that Adonai your God commanded to teach you to do in the land you are crossing over to possess—²so that you might fear Adonai your God, to keep all His statutes and mitzvot that I am commanding you and your son and your son's son all the days of your life, and so that you may prolong your days. ³Hear, therefore, O Israel, and take care to do this, so that it may go well with you and you may increase mightily, as Adonai the God of your fathers has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁴Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one[a]. ⁵Love Adonai your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength (or might) (me'od)" (Deut. 6:1-5)

Yeshua declared the *Shema* in the Gospels of *Matthew* and *Mark* when asked by a scribe about the greatest commandment. In *Mark* ²⁹*"Yeshua answered, 'The first is, 'Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad. Hear; O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. ³⁰And you shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength (Mark 12:29-30)', Yeshua quotes Deuteronomy 6:4-5. In Matthew Yeshua also quotes Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ³⁷And He said to him, "'You shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment' (Matthew 22:37-38)", He similarly affirms this as the first and greatest commandment, in both cases substituting *mind* for *strength* in the description of loving *The Almighty*. The Reason Yeshua adds *Mind* to the *V'ahavta* "You shall love the Lord your God with all your Heart, soul, strength", is because He was clarifying that your *heart* also includes your *mind*. In the Hebrew word *me'od* your *mind* and *might* are both implied. Yeshua is not saying the *Torah* was wrong, He is just clarifying this for the current generation of Greek listeners. It takes more Greek words to explain the the single Hebrew word *me'od* just like it takes more English words to translate a typical single or otherwise Hebrew word. To an English only reader this seems like a correction of the *Torah*. I was such a reader in my early days. It became a necessity to study some Hebrew for greater understanding.*

In the *Book of Deuteronomy* the key verbs are *hear*, *listen*, and *obey* which are all summarized in one word: *sh'ma*. Obedience to *Yah Adonai* – or the lack thereof – describes the essence of this book. Serving *Yah* is the key in dozens of verses. An important aspect of Hebrew verbs is their emphasis on actual, *concrete action*, not just philosophical thought. The term *love* appears more times in this book of the *Torah* than in any other book in the rest of the entire *Hebrew Scriptures* (the *TNK*, 17 times). We will also have an emphasis on *remember to remember*. To forget someone or something in Biblical terms *does not mean* that someone *did not jog your memory* or that *your memory failed*, as in *Wow, I could have had a V-8!* To forget Biblically means *to fail to act for, to abandon, or to forsake*. Conversely, to remember means to *act on behalf of someone*; for example, *God remembered Hannah*, and *acted for good on her behalf* by sending *Samuel*. This type of *remembrance* and its inverse concept, *to forget*, are invoked almost 30 times in *Deuteronomy*.

During Yeshua's temptation by *Satan* before he formally began his ministry (See *Matt. 4 & Lk. 4*), He was asked to do three specific acts to *prove himself* as the Son of *Yah*. In each of these three cases Yeshua answered the enemy by quoting verses specifically from *Deuteronomy*. This should give us an indication of how important Yeshua believed this book to be – a tool to defeat the enemy. But more than just quoting *Deuteronomy*, Yeshua declared the *Shema*, not just the *V'ahavta*!

By emphasizing the *Shema*, Yeshua is reminding us that *The Almighty* is only one and He is alone and unique. There is no opportunity for anyone, even Yeshua to compete with *Yah Adonai*. No chance for idolatry! Yeshua points us to *Abba Father* when it comes to honoring the Godhead. No wonder when He taught us to pray He began with *"Our Father in heaven, magnified and honored be Your Name."* It is all about *Abba Father*. This fact alone makes the "Jesus only" movement questionable. We should pray to the Father and not the Son! We only have One God, and His Name is *Yah Adonai Our Elohim. Shabbat Shalom!*