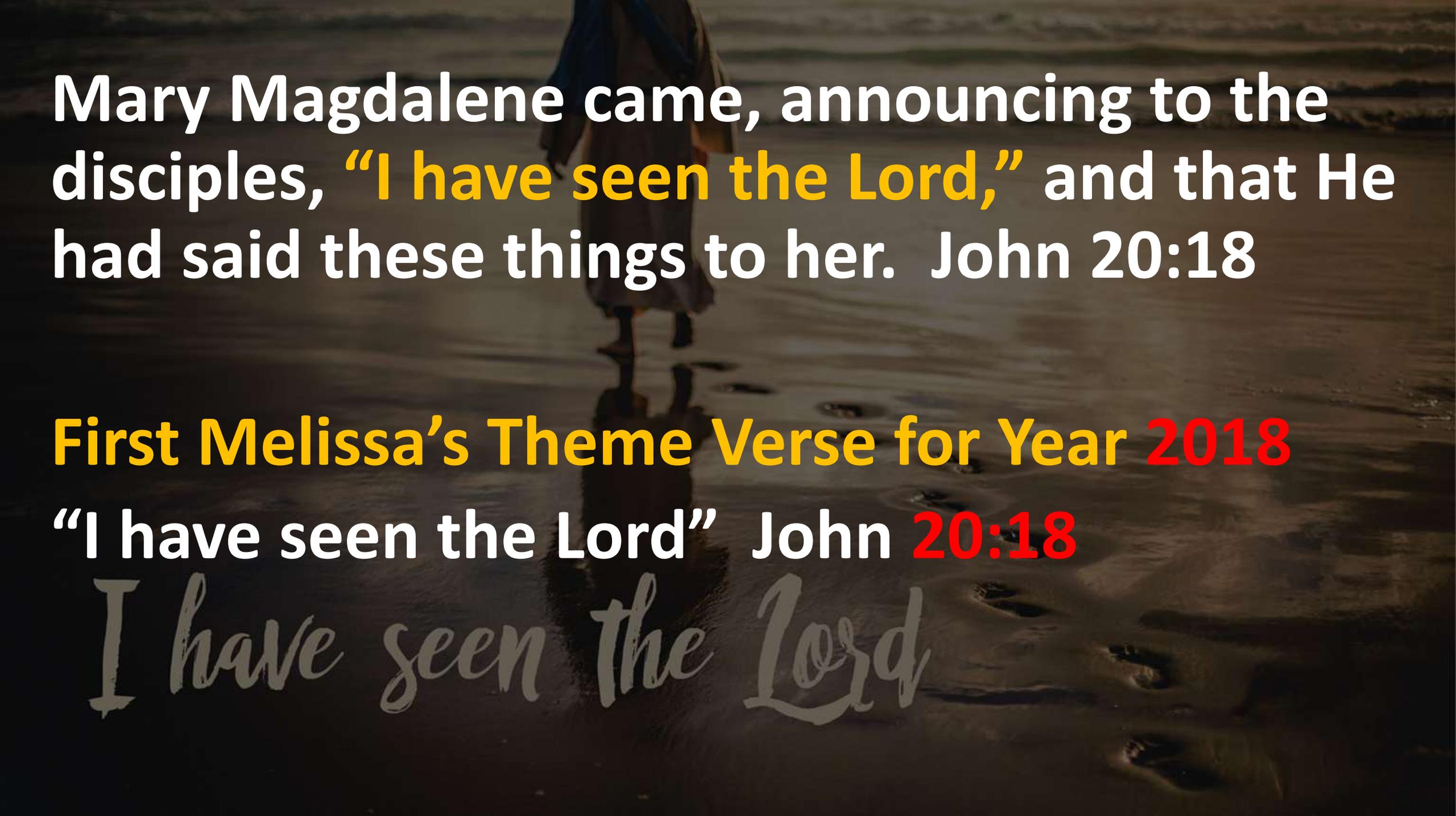


A person wearing a long, light-colored robe and a blue head covering is walking away from the camera on a wet beach. The sand is dark and reflective, showing a clear reflection of the person. The ocean waves are visible in the background, and the sky is a warm, golden color, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

*I have seen the Lord*



Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, **“I have seen the Lord,”** and that He had said these things to her. John 20:18

**First Melissa’s Theme Verse for Year 2018**

**“I have seen the Lord” John 20:18**

*I have seen the Lord*

# The passion of First Melissa is to make disciples of Jesus who:

**Reach Intentionally**

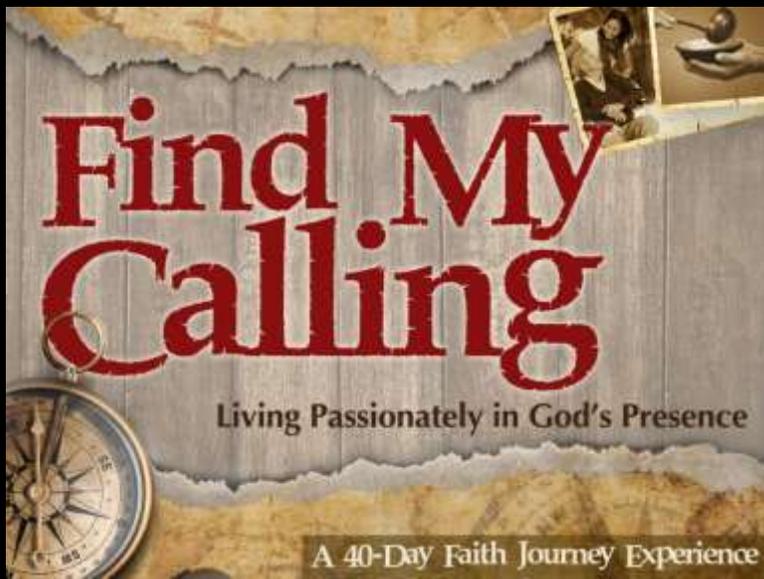
**Connect Authentically**

**Equip Continuously**

**Live Passionately**



## Let's spend 40 Days learning to be more devoted disciples of Jesus



**January 2014**



**January 2015**

**40 Days  
of FAITH**



**January 2016**



**January 2017**

**HEAR HIS VOICE**

**January 2018**



# **Why 40 Days?**

**Forty is mentioned 146 times in  
Scripture.**

**It symbolizes trial and testing,  
probation, or the fulfillment of  
promises.**

# 40 Days in the Bible

- It rained for 40 days and nights when God wanted to cleanse the world and start over. (Genesis 7:12 )
- Noah waited another 40 days after it rained before he opened a window in the Ark. (Genesis 8:6)

Source: [http://www.40day.com/40\\_in\\_the\\_bible.html](http://www.40day.com/40_in_the_bible.html) and <http://www.ecclesia.org/truth/40.html>



# Deuteronomy 6

The Hebrew people, led by Moses, leave slavery in Egypt and begin the journey toward the Promised Land of Israel.

Before they enter, Moses reminds them of their covenant with God.



**“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.” Deuteronomy 6:1-2**

**“O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.” Deuteronomy 6:3**

**“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your might. These  
words, which I am commanding you today, shall be  
on your heart.” Deuteronomy 6:4-6**

**“You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up.”**

**Deuteronomy 6:7**



**"You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead."  
Deuteronomy 6:8**



**Tefillin**

**HEAR HIS VOICE**



**“You shall  
write them on  
the doorposts  
of your house  
and on your  
gates.”  
Deuteronomy  
6:9**

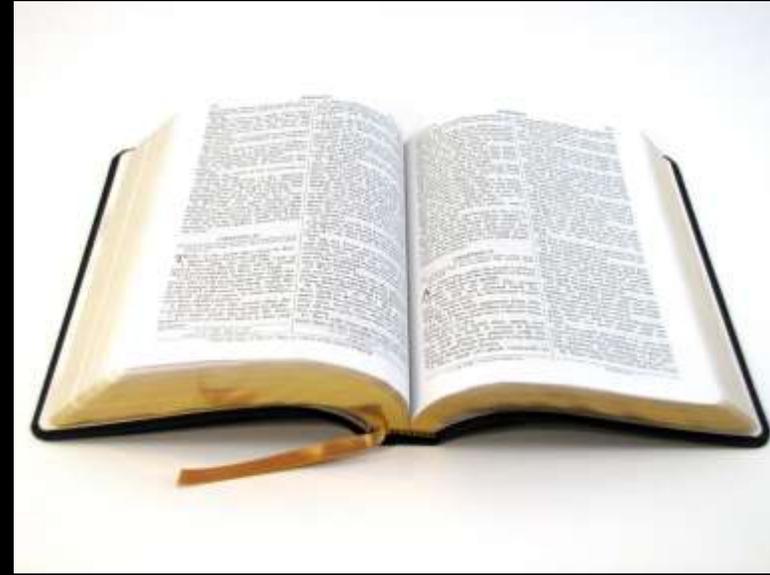
**Mezuzah on the front entrance of our church**

# Names of God in Hebrew

אֲדֹנָי      Adonai

יְהוָה      Yahweh

אֱלֹהִים      Elohim



**There are 31,173 verses in the New American Standard Translation of the Bible. There are 807,361 English words in the New American Standard Translation of the Bible. There are 8,674 different Hebrew words in the Bible. Today, let's focus on **ONE HEBREW WORD**.**

**"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our  
God, the Lord is one!"**

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

Sh'ma Yisra-eil, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֶל יְהוָה אֶחָד

Deuteronomy 6:4

**Observant Jews consider the Shema to be the most important part of the prayer service in Judaism, and its twice-daily recitation as a *mitzvah* (religious commandment). It is traditional for Jews to say the Shema as their last words, and for parents to teach their children to say it before they go to sleep at night.**

- Wikipedia

**The Shema is one of only two prayers that are specifically commanded in Torah (the other is Birkat Ha-Mazon – grace after meals). It is the oldest fixed daily prayer in Judaism, recited morning and night since ancient times. It consists of three biblical passages, two of which specifically say to speak of these things "when you lie down and when you rise up." This commandment is fulfilled by including the Shema in the liturgy for Ma'ariv (evening services) and Shacharit (morning services).** - <http://www.jewfaq.org/shemaref.htm>

HEAR HIS VOICE

# Deuteronomy 6:4

שְׁמָעָה **Shema** Hear

**Hebrew verb; 1159 occurrences; Authorized Version of the Bible translates as "hear" 785 times, "hearken" 196 times, "obey" 81 times, "publish" 17 times, "understand" nine times, "obedient" eight times, "diligently" eight times.**

**Meanings: 1 to hear, listen to, obey. 1a1 to hear (perceive by ear). 1a2 to hear of or concerning. 1a3 to hear (have power to hear). 1a4 to hear with attention or interest, listen to. 1a5 to understand (language). 1a6 to hear (of judicial cases). 1a7 to listen, give heed. 1a7a to consent, agree. 1a7b to grant request. 1a8 to listen to, yield to. 1a9 to obey, be obedient.**

**– Enhanced Strong's Lexicon**

**The command: "Shema Y'Israel" "Hear, O Israel"**

**Etymologically the term "shema" invokes not only hearing, but also learning, following, even obeying.**

**Where it involves listening to the spoken word, this term implies an engagement with the mind, an attentive listening, even a sense of "heed by acting" or "putting to practice." When God calls Israel to hear, He expects more than just a listening. He expects action.**

**"Shema" beckons us to not only hear the words of God, but to take them into the very center of our being and doing. In other words, God expects a **listening** with a view toward **doing**.**

<https://www.johnsonu.edu/JohnsonUniversity/media/System/PDFs/Piedmont-Lecture-1-Praying-the-Shema.pdf>

**HEAR HIS VOICE**

# TEENAGERS

I don't want you to "hear" me

I want you to "Shema" me

There is no biblical Hebrew word for "obey." English word translated "obey" is the Hebrew word "shema."

Today, before we obey, we usually go through a 3 part process...

- 1) We hear what God says
- 2) We evaluate the command based on our understanding
- 3) We make a choice to obey based on our evaluation

It's a Greek mindset to understand first then obey. But God doesn't give us instructions in order that we might understand Him! He gives His instructions to us that we might live life well (see Proverbs 10:17).

There are 613 commandments in the Old Testament and 1050 commandments in the New Testament. With so many "commandments" you would naturally assume that obedience is what God is requiring. But He's not looking for obedience from us the way we understand obedience. Webster's Dictionary defines obey as to do what someone tells you to do or what a rule, law, etc., says you must do. Some synonyms are to submit, to keep, to comply, to be governed by, bow to, do one's bidding, do what is expected, do as told, to take orders. Lots of English synonyms for a word that's not even in the Hebrew language!

What does God require from us? He's looking for **shema levot...for hearing hearts**. A hearing heart is intent on or committed to doing whatever God commands... whatever He asks from us. Most importantly a hearing heart is rooted in love (Deuteronomy 10:12; John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). [-https://itsfinished.blog/2016/03/07/no-hebrew-word-for-obey/](https://itsfinished.blog/2016/03/07/no-hebrew-word-for-obey/)

The opening line "Listen, O Israel" does not simply mean to let the sound waves enter your ears. The word "listen" or "hear" means allow the words to sink in, provide understanding, and generate a response. In Hebrew, "hearing" and "doing" are basically the same thing, but what is Israel to do in response to hearing that the Lord alone is their God? **"Love the Lord your God."**

Love isn't simply the warm, fuzzy, emotional energy we feel when we like someone. In the Bible, love is action. You love someone when you act in loyalty and faithfulness. For Israel, to love meant faithful obedience to the terms of their covenant relationship. Those terms are the laws and commands that are found in the Book of Deuteronomy.

Obedience to these laws was never about legalism or trying to earn God's favor. **Obedience in the Old Testament is about love and listening.** If an Israelite loves God, it will make it easier to listen and absorb His teachings and guidance. This is why the words "listen" and "love" are so tightly connected and repeated through these opening speeches of Deuteronomy. <https://thebibleproject.com/blog/what-is-the-shema/>

שְׁמַע

# Shema in other Bible Verses

The first time "**shema**" appears in Scripture is in Genesis 3:8. "And they heard (**shema**) the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

Adam and Eve had just sinned and eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This scripture shows us God's response to them in spite of their sin... in spite of them not following their hearing hearts and doing what God required of them. God came walking through His garden in the cool of the day.

The word walk is *halak*; it has the idea of moving or going as opposed to just sitting there. The term "cool of the day" wasn't just added as a poetic phrase, the word cool is the word *ruach* which is the word for spirit.

Immediately following their disobedience they "heard"(shema) the Spirit of the Lord in the Garden ready to walk with them... eager to enjoy fellowshiping Spirit to spirit with them. They heard His Spirit come into the garden desiring to be with them like always.

To hear (**shema**) is hearing with understanding, attention, and with a response. Response to what? To come to Him and walk with His Spirit as usual. Allowing the wind of His Spirit to blow over them and make things right.

English translations tell us that God said "where are you?" In the Hebrew it is a Semitic idiomatic expression meaning "he is nowhere." God wasn't asking where Adam was. He was crying out "Adam is nowhere in My heart." This is not a picture of an angry God who is looking for Adam so that he can punish his "disobedience"... this first look at sin for us is a picture of a caring Father so sad that His son left His heart.

<https://itisfinished.blog/2016/03/07/no-hebrew-word-for-obey/>

HEAR HIS VOICE

# שְׁמָעָה Shema

in other Bible Verses

## About Us

“Now then, if you will indeed **obey** My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine” Exodus 19:5

“They have ears, but they cannot **hear**” Psalm 115:6

“The **hearing** ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made both of them.”  
Proverbs 20:12

## About God

“**Hear**, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me.” Psalm 27:7

HEAR HIS VOICE

**"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our  
God, the Lord is one!"**

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

Sh'ma Yisra-eil, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad.

**O Israel!**

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

**יִשְׂרָאֵל Israel**

**Meaning: 1. the second name for Jacob given to him by God after his wrestling with the angel at Peniel. 2 the name of the descendants and the nation of the descendants of Jacob. 2a the name of the nation until the death of Solomon and the split. 2b the name used and given to the northern kingdom consisting of the 10 tribes under Jeroboam; the southern kingdom was known as Judah. 2c the name of the nation after the return from exile.**

**– Enhanced Strong's Lexicon**

**The Lord is our God**

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

**יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ Adonai Eloheinu**

**Relationship with God**

**Covenant God**

**The Lord is one!**

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

**יְהוָה אֶחָד** Adonai Echad

**Monotheism**

**Trinity**

**“YHWH Alone” “The Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Deut. 6:4).**

**This is a Trinitarian statement: we believe that God is three-fold—Father, Son and Spirit—and this verse keeps us from abandoning the unity of the Godhead in favor of three separate gods. The word “one” has to do with God’s unity—both to Himself, and within Israel. It communicates that God’s desires and actions are in perfect sync, that He has integrity of purpose and plans. It also has the force of uniting the various tribes of Israel around worship of a single God. There is no YHWH of Shechem who is differentiated between YHWH of Bethel, YHWH of Samaria, and YHWH of Jerusalem. There is only ONE YHWH.**

**This part of The Shema is an affirmation of the first two commands of the Decalogue, that YHWH is God and Israel is to have no other (Exodus 20:1- 4). The Shema has the force of calling Israel to cast off all other gods—like those they encountered in Egypt, Canaan, and Philistia—to worship and serve only YHWH.**

**Another translation reads: “Listen, Israel: YHWH is our God, YHWH alone.” The golden calf incident led Israel into a foreign-god-worshipping environment, and The Shema was a twice-daily discipline to keep this temptation at bay. At the heart of The Shema is a call for the people of God to worship “YHWH alone.”**

**<https://www.johnsonu.edu/JohnsonUniversity/media/System/PDFs/Piedmont-Lecture-1Praying-the-Shema.pdf>**

**Dalet**

**Ayin**



שמע ישראל יהוה אחד יהוה אחד יהוה אחד יהוה אחד

The first verse of Shema is printed with an enlarged letter "Ayin" in the word "Shema," and an enlarged letter "Dalet" at the end of the final word, "Ehad."

<http://www.dailyhalacha.com/m/halacha.aspx?id=2147>

HEAR HIS VOICE

**Ayin & Dalet** are in larger letters because:

1. These two letters together spell **עֵד** *eid*, the Hebrew word for "**witness.**" Believers are to be witnesses of God's greatness.
2. Large letter Dalet distinguishes it from letter Resh which would mean "another" or "other" or "different" god  
echad (ONE) **אֶחָד** VS. acher (OTHER) **אַחֵר**

The **Shema** became a twice-daily prayer within Judaism as was widely practiced in the second-temple period. Jesus grew up praying it and He drew upon it in His teachings. He was asked which command in the Torah was the greatest. Jesus answered, "The first of all the commandments is, 'Listen, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. The second is: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Mark 12:29-31)

In the Book of Revelation, John drew upon this prayer to describe Jesus' followers. Part of the Shema prayer in Deuteronomy 6:8 contains these words: "You shall bind these words as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as symbols between your eyes." Your eyes are the place where you see and you use your hands for almost everything you do. This prayer was to guide the vision and action of every moment of life. This is why John says that in the new creation, when God's people live in intimate proximity to God and the risen Jesus, "They will see God's face, and His name will be on their foreheads" (Revelation 22:4).

People who reject the way of Jesus have given their allegiance to other powers that are bent on destroying them (depicted as "beasts" in Revelation 13). John drew upon the Shema to depict a human life on the path of destruction: "The Beast also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads." (Revelation 13:16)

For John, the choice is a stark one. You either give your allegiance to Jesus and allow it influence how you see and act, or your allegiance will belong to destructive powers that will also govern how you see and what you do in life. One path leads to life, the other to death. All of these ideas and images come from Moses' words in Deuteronomy, specifically from the Shema. -<https://thebibleproject.com/blog/what-is-the-shema/>

# SHEMA HEAR

Jesus said, "My sheep **hear** My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

John 10:27-28

# HEAR

We all LISTEN to lots of stuff everyday

What we HEAR effects who we ARE

For these 40 Days, let's commit to a life of Shema

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

Sh'ma Yisra-eil, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad.

Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!

בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Baruch sheim k'vod malchuto l'olam va-ed.

Blessed is God's glorious majesty forever and ever.