

# The “Shema” Series: Part 1

## Love

**A four week series of word studies on key words within the Shema**

**Sunday, February 18, 2018**

*Shema: pronounced “Sha-mah” - A prayer that Jews have recited twice a day for thousands of years.*

*Hear- Listen & Obey = One in the Same*

*LORD- name of the Jewish God (the one true God) — Yahweh (too holy to speak or even write) - YHWH + AdOnAy (Lord) = Yahowah (where Christian scribes got the name Jehovah)*

**Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NIV)**

**Love the LORD Your God**

6 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, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Hear, 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 ancestors, promised you.

<sup>4</sup> **Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.** <sup>5</sup> **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

**Love (“Ahavah” in Hebrew)**

**-Video: The Bible Project**

**Ahavah: Feeling AND Action**

## Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)

### The Great Commandment

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.  
<sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”**

## Leviticus 19:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD.

Love is expressed in many ways:

- Parental
- Brotherly
- Husband to a Wife
- Towards a Great Leader
- Loyalty with an Ally

God chose us because He loves us. He didn't choose us because we deserved His love or even because we loved Him. God IS love. Love originates from God's own character. He loves because He loves!

## Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV)

<sup>3b</sup> **I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.**

God can say this because His love has no end. His love has no end because it has no beginning. It is simply an eternal fact of the universe. God's love is both a FEELING and an ACTION.

God's love is not just a sentiment, it is something He does. Again, action is backing up the words. We've all experienced "love in words but not action." That's not love at all.

In the same way that God's love for us is both a FEELING and an ACTION, He has commanded us to love the world in the same way; to show our love by our actions.

### **Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to FEAR the LORD your God, to WALK in all his ways, to love him, to SERVE the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to KEEP the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?"

-FEAR

-WALK

-SERVE

-KEEP

If I'm not committed to doing these four things, I don't really love God, I just say I do.

In the Old Testament, I show my love for God by how I treat the people around me. In Deuteronomy God speaks through Moses about being a defender of the widow and the orphan, which is then echoed in the New Testament, and also of His heart for the immigrant and those that are marginalized by society. If we truly AHAVAH God, then we will show that AHAVAH to others around us. (Leviticus 19:18)

### **1 John 4:10-12 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> **This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.**

<sup>11</sup> **Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.** <sup>12</sup> **No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.**