



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Shema: Hear. Internalize. Do"

Va'etchanan (וַאֲתַחֲנֶן) "And I Pleaded [for favor]"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Deut. 6:4-6; Deut. 4:1; 5:1; 6:3-4; 20:3; 27:9; Lev. 19:18, 34; Gen 1:26-27; Isaiah 48:12-16; John 1:1-3; 14; John 17:21

The Shema is not just a prayer—it is the heartbeat of God's covenant with His people. "*Hear O Israel, ADONAI our God, ADONAI is One*" (Deut. 6:4) is more than an announcement of God's identity; it is a call to respond with our whole being—heart, soul, and *me'od* (our "muchness" or "very-ness"). In Hebrew, "Shema" does not simply mean "hear" as in perceiving sound—it means to hear, take to heart, and act upon what has been spoken. In Deuteronomy, God repeats the call to *Shema* seven times, each one tied to life, blessing, courage, and covenant identity.

The absence of a simple "obey" command in the Hebrew Scriptures is not an accident—God is not seeking robotic compliance but relational responsiveness. He calls His people to take His words into their innermost being so that their outward actions naturally align with His character. *Shema* is about hearing God's voice, internalizing His Word, and living it out so completely that our lives reflect His *Echad*—His perfect unity—into the world.

1. HEAR: THE CALL TO RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

When God says *Shema Yisrael*, He is not giving a casual suggestion but a covenant summons. In Deuteronomy, each "Shema" moment comes before a significant act—entering the Land, facing enemies, reaffirming the covenant. Hearing is the first step toward victory, faithfulness, and blessing. But hearing biblically means more than awareness—it means engaging with the message until it begins to change how you think, speak, and act.

God's people are called to be watchful listeners. We are to approach His Word with the seriousness of someone receiving life-sustaining nourishment. As in the example of a football player needing to "consume the protein" to be strong, we cannot live victoriously in God's calling by merely holding His Word in our hands—we must take it in and let it become part of us. Without hearing in this deep, internal way, we risk facing life's challenges without the strength that comes from being grounded in His truth.

2. INTERNALIZE: LET THE WORD BECOME PART OF YOU

The *Shema* calls us to love God with all our *me'od*—our "very-ness." Yeshua expands this to include heart, soul, mind, and strength, showing that God wants every dimension of who we are. Internalizing God's Word is not about information; it's about transformation. As we meditate on His instructions, they become the reflexes of our soul, shaping our values, desires, and responses.

God's commands are rooted in His own nature—His love, holiness, and justice. To internalize His Word is to allow His character to become the pattern for our own. This produces a life where loving God naturally overflows into loving our neighbor and the

outsider (Lev. 19:18, 34). When the Word is truly within us, our unity with Him begins to transform how we relate to everyone else, reflecting His *Echad* in our relationships.

3. DO: LIVE OUT HIS UNITY AND CHARACTER

God is *Echad*—a complex unity, perfect in oneness. This unity is not sameness but the beautiful harmony of diversity working together toward one purpose. Humanity was created in that image, designed to live in unity with God and with one another. Sin shattered that unity, turning people toward self-exaltation, but through Yeshua, God restores us into oneness with Himself and calls us to live it out visibly before the world (John 17:21).

Living the *Shema* means our actions align with the truth we have heard and internalized. Unity in God's people becomes a witness to His reality. It's more than the absence of conflict—it's actively working together in love and purpose, so the world can "see" the One who sent Yeshua. Just as the tribes of Israel were to enter the Land as one people, we are to advance God's Kingdom as one Body, reflecting His heart and character in the way we love, serve, and stand together.

CONCLUSION

The Shema is God's invitation to a life that fully reflects Him—hearing His voice, internalizing His truth, and living it out in visible unity. When we truly *Shema*, we become living witnesses to the world of who God is. His unity becomes our unity. His love becomes our love. And His mission becomes our mission. This is not a one-time choice but a daily practice of tuning our ears, shaping our hearts, and moving our feet in sync to His voice.

Yeshua prayed that we would be one, just as He and the Father are one, so that the world would believe the Father sent Him. When we *Shema*, that prayer begins to be answered in us. Let us be a people who not only declare "ADONAI Echad" but demonstrate it with our lives—hearing, internalizing, and doing, for His glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In your own words, what is the difference between hearing and "Shema" in the biblical sense?
2. How does understanding *me'od* as "muchness" or "very-ness" change how you read Deuteronomy 6:5?
3. What are some practical ways you can internalize God's Word so it becomes part of you?
4. How does unity among God's people serve as a witness to the world?
5. Which area—hearing, internalizing, or doing—do you feel God is challenging you to grow in most right now?

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, teach me to truly Shema—to hear Your voice with my heart, to let Your Word shape every part of me, and to live it out in a way that honors You. Help me to love You with all my heart, all my soul, and all my muchness, and to reflect Your unity in my relationships. May my life be a testimony that You are One, and that Yeshua is Lord.
B'Shem Yeshua, Amen.