

Torah Focus

June 25, 2009

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The L-RD our G-d is one L-RD :

Deu 6:5 And thou shalt love the L-RD thy G-d with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deu 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deu 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deu 6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Deu 6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Mar 12:28 One of the scribes came, and heard them questioning together. Knowing that he had answered them well, asked him, "Which mitzvah is the greatest of all?"

Mar 12:29 Yeshua answered, "The greatest is, 'Hear, Yisra'el, the L-RD our G-d , the L-RD is one:

Mar 12:30 you shall love the L-RD your G-d with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first mitzvah.

Mar 12:31 The second is like this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other mitzvah greater than these."

Mar 12:32 The scribe said to him, "Truly, teacher, you have said well that he is one, and there is none other but he,

Mar 12:33 and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Yeshua is saying that the Shema is a mitzvah.

The Ruler of the Synagogue would ask Yeshua to read the Maftir or the conclusion or Haftorah.

There must be a minimum of 7 people to read during the service.

On the day of this reading, Yeshua would have been the Cantor. He would be up leading the entire service.

On page 89 in the ArtScroll Siddur, you will find the Yotzer Owr.

Blessed are you HaShem who forms light and creates darkness.

Isa 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness; I make shalom, and create evil. I am the L-RD , who does all these things.

The Yotzer Owr recites Isa. 45:7.

Deu 6:4 Hear, Yisra'el: the L-RD is our G-d ; the L-RD is one:

What is the theme of the Shema?

The core of the Shema is G-d .

It is not about the word echad or one. There are several words that relate the idea of one; Yechidah and Aleph.

The word "echad" represents a form of uniqueness.

Deu 6:5 and you shall love the L-RD your G-d with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

In verse 5 we are commanded to love G-d.

Blessed are you, Hashem our G-d that forms light, creates darkness makes peace and creates all.

The Shemoni Eshrei is also called the 18 benedictions. However, there are actually 19 benedictions. One was added by the Sadduces

[Comment From mary-houston]

Shalom,,,Why are we commanded to read the prayers,,, even if you know them by heart ?
How do the blessings support the central theme of the Shema?

What does Yotzer Owr have to do with the Shema?

There are ten passages that are recited on Rosh Shannah. It is all about the theme of the King and His Kingdom.

Shema is one of these prayers that are said on Rosh haShannah.

G-d is the Creator. This focuses on the theme of Shema. We can say He is the creator of everything.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning G-d created

The first things he creates is infinity or limitlessness.
The second thing he creates is the finite or limited.

Gen 1:6 G-d said, "Let there be an expanse in the middle of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

This is HaShem's activity.

Gen 1:9 G-d said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear;" and it was so.

"Gathered" is yikahvoo in Hebrew. It gives the idea of waiting for something.

Gen 1:11 G-d said, "Let the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with its seed in it, on the earth;" and it was so.

This is the earth's activity. Because G-d invests a power in the earth and gives the earth the ability to produce after its own kind.

Gen 1:14 G-d said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of sky to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years;

This is G-d 's activity.

Gen 1:20 G-d said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of sky."

G-d 's activity.

Gen 1:26 G-d said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

The "Us" is G-d and the earth. We see this as a joint effort of G-d and the earth.

We must love G-d with our yetzer hara (our desire for the physical) and the yetzer hatov the spiritual.

Why did G-d decide that man should be a product of both worlds?

It is because that the yetzer hara can be used in a positive way for the Kingdom of G-d .

The word Mitzvah gives us the concept of connection.

The Shema is about accepting HaShem as King. If we connect with Him, we accept his mitzvots.

When bless G-d for an apple, We draw upon the natural nutritional value of the apple and also the spiritual power because the apple was given by G-d .

When we say the brachot, we are acknowledging G-d and his creation.

The word "Dominion" is yarad.

The word comes from two roots

Yirad - fall
radah - rule

This gives us the idea that if we do not rule, we will fall.

We see three aspects of our lives. The Spirit, the will, and the flesh.

Basar and sarx have to do with literal meat.

The Basarot is the Good News of the Gospel.

If I express a stronger desire for spiritual things, then this is what I have chosen. This is what brings G-d ' honor because this is an eternal testimony.

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The L-RD our G-d is one L-RD :

Yom Echad - means prototype, uniqueness, oneness

Yom Rishom means day one.

Yom Echad is the archtypical day which forms the prototype for every day following.

The word Rishon is what would be used to convey the typical number one.

Gen 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Gen 2:23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She will be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Gen 2:18 The L-RD G-d said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

Gen 2:21 The L-RD G-d caused a deep sleep to fall on the man, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

The word echad can also give the idea of being whole as in the union of man and woman.

In saying the Shema, when you get to the last word, echad, you prolong the word.

If we do not go through the birthpains of Messiah, the Olam haba will not happen.

We can never know what love really is unless you know G-d because G-d is love.

[Comment From mary-houston]

Will there be birth pains for the body to be transformed to an immortal state,,,or is it based on our choice along with the absence of the yetzer hara ?

Lilah Tov and see you next week

Be Blessed