

Biblical Hebrew 102

Introduction to Grammatical Concepts

Lesson 20 - **supplement**

שְׁמַע יִיט

The Shema



A small synagogue replica constructed in the much the same way the village synagogue was during the time of Yeshua. Nazareth Village, Israel.

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.” Luke 4:16 ESV.

What we will learn in this supplement to Lesson 20

- 20.08 Another look at the Shema
- 20.09 V’ahavta (line 2 of the Shema)
- 20.10 Interesting info about the Shema
- 20.11 Reading exercises: the Name above every Name

שְׁמַע * יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד *

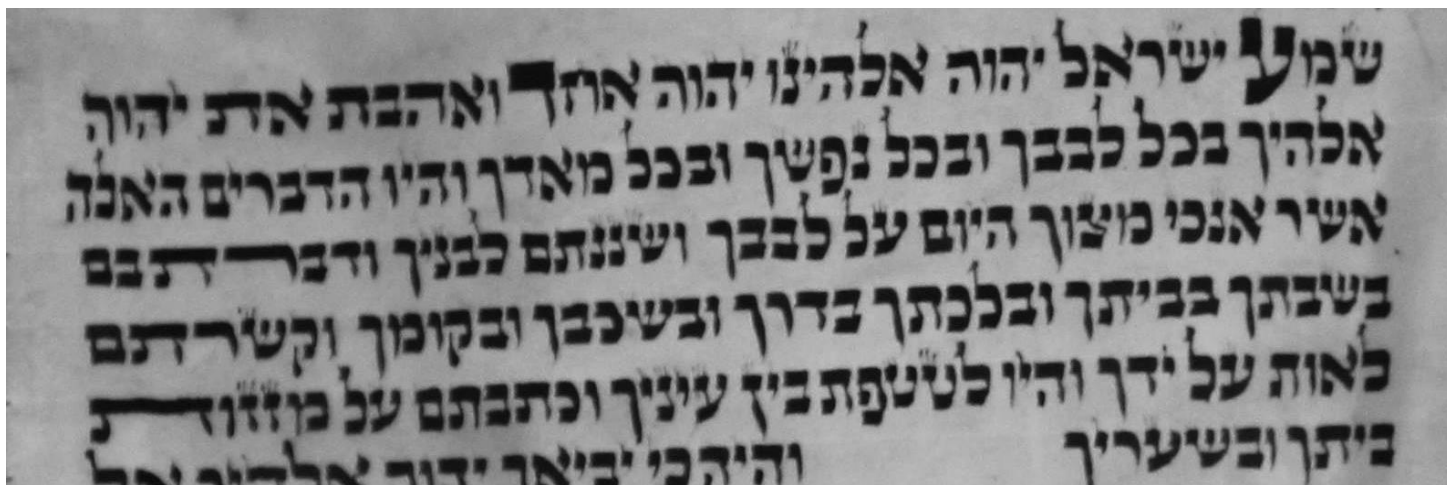
Words from the first line of the Shema, שְׁמַע (Deut 6:4)		
Hebrew	Translation	Transliteration
		Note: 1. Vocal shevas (as in the ׀ below) are written using very small letters (as in veh below) 2. Accented syllable is bolded
שְׁמַע	Hear (as in hear, <u>understand</u> & <u>obey</u>)	sheh- mah (commonly pronounced: sh' mah)
יִשְׂרָאֵל	Israel	Yees-rah- ehl
יהוה **	YHVH	YH VH (Yaveh or Adonai **)
אֱלֹהֵינוּ	our God	Eh-loh- hay -noo
יהוה **	YHVH	YH VH (Yahveh or Adonai **)

* The Hebrew letters ayin ע and dalet ד are super-sized in the Torah Scroll. Notice these two are enlarged letters on the picture of the scroll below.

There are various explanations as to why these letters are enlarged.

- Some say these 2 letters form the word עֵד, which means *witness* (also, *testimony & evidence*) (Gen 31:50, etc), the Shema is a witness to the sovereignty of God and that our primary duty is to love God with our whole heart and whole being.
- Another thought since there are no vowel markings on the Scroll, עֵד could be עֶד which is *forever, eternity* (Is 57:15, etc). God's Word stands forever!

** This spelling, with these vowel markings, יְהוָה was never to be pronounced. Commonly HaShem or Adonai are substituted. In the Biblical Hebrew classes, we use this spelling יְהוה and pronounce His Name, Yahveh (YHVH).



* Note the enlarged ע and ד. This is a picture of the Shema on the CFS Torah Scroll. This scroll was written in Romania in the 1930s during the early days of the Holocaust.

20.09 supplement *V'ahavta* (line 2 of the Shema)

וְאַהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לְבָבְךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ:

“You shall love YHVH your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might,” Deut 6:5

Words from line two of the Shema (the V'ahavta וְאַהַבְתָּ , Deut 6:5)			
Strong's	Hebrew	English	Morphology
157 [e]	וְאַהַבְתָּ wə-’ā-hab-tā ,	And You shall love	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-2ms
853 [e]	אֶת ’et	-	DirObjM
3068 [e]	יְהוָה Yah-weh	Yahweh	N-proper-ms
430 [e]	אֱלֹהֶיךָ ’ē-lō-he-kā ;	your God	N-mpc 2ms
3605 [e]	בְּכָל- bə-kāl	with all	Prep-b N-msc
3824 [e]	לְבָבְךָ lə-bā-bə-kā	your heart	N-msc 2ms
3605 [e]	וּבְכָל- ū-bə-kāl	and with all	Conj-w, Prep-b N-msc
5315 [e]	נַפְשְׁךָ nap-šə-kā	your soul	N-fsc 2ms
3605 [e]	וּבְכָל- ū-bə-kāl	and with all	Conj-w, Prep-b N-msc
3966 [e]	מְאֹדְךָ: mə-’ō-de-kā .	your strength	Adv 2ms

The Shema is like the U.S
Pledge of Allegiance.
In that, the words of each
represent more than the
meaning of the individual

What did Yeshua say about the Shema?

²⁸Yeshua was asked a profound question: “What commandment is the foremost of all?” (Mk 12:28)

²⁹Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! YHVH OUR GOD IS ONE YHVH; ³⁰AND YOU SHALL LOVE YHVH YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’ ³¹” (Mark 12:29-30; Yeshua quotes Deut 6:4).

“The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ (Yeshua quotes Lev 19:18 NASB). There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31).

Yeshua, all His Jewish disciples, Apostles, as well as Paul and James all recited the Shema! If our desire is to ‘do what Jesus did,’ shouldn’t all Believers regularly recite the Shema today?

The Shema needs to be understood in its entirety, based on the context of the Torah. The Shema is comprised of three parts found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 11:13-21 and Numbers 15:37-41. Let us remember that we, as followers of Yeshua, are required follow in His footsteps, and to declare our allegiance.

Since the Shema points to the Father and Yeshua, everyone who repeats this creed is declaring allegiance to the Father and proclaiming their personal faith.

As you read the Shema, meditate on what our Messiah’s creed declares!

And remember “Yeshua is the Word (Torah) made flesh”

The Shema is the Confession of our faith:

The Shema (Deut. 6:4-5) is the confession of our faith & said by those in covenant with YHVH. When Yeshua was asked “of all the commandments which is the most important? ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus [Yeshua], ‘is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, YHVH our God, YHVH is One. Love YHVH your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” (Mark 12:28-31a NIV quotes Deut.6:4-5 NIV and Lev 19:18 NIV).

The Shema is the first prayer a Jewish child learns and the last prayer a dying person says. How much more should we, as believers, understand and confess that which Yeshua Himself stated was the most important commandment!”

Why did Daniel and why do we face east when saying the Shema?

When reciting the Shema, we face east toward God’s holy mountain, Zion, and the Temple. (Dan 6:10; Ps 5:7; 1Ki 8:29)

20.11 supplement *Reading exercises: The Name Above Every Name*

The word יהוה is the personal Name of the God of Israel. Many refer to יהוה as the *tetragrammaton* or “The Four Letters,” which refers to the four consonantal Hebrew letters.

Did you know that YHVH appears approximately seven thousand times in the Hebrew Scriptures!

Exodus 3:13:

¹³Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

Exodus 3:14:

¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you. ...'"

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶהְיֶה שְׁלֹחַנִי אֵלֵיכֶם:

Note: the words God uses to describe Himself, Who He is: אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה .

Strong's	Hebrew	English	Morphology
559 [e]	וַיֹּאמֶר way-yō-mer	and said	Conj-w V-Qal- ConseclImperf-3ms
430 [e]	אֱלֹהִים 'ē-lō-hîm	God	N-mp
413 [e]	אֶל- 'el-	to	Prep
4872 [e]	מֹשֶׁה mō-šeh,	Moses	N-proper-ms
1961 [e]	אֶהְיֶה 'eh-yeh	I AM	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs
834 [e]	אֲשֶׁר 'ā-šer	who	Pro-r
1961 [e]	אֶהְיֶה 'eh-yeh;	I AM	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs
559 [e]	וַיֹּאמֶר way-yō-mer,	and He said	Conj-w V-Qal- ConseclImperf-3ms
3541 [e]	כֹּה kōh	thus	Adv

559 [e]	תֹּאמַר tō-mar	you shall say	V-Qal-Imperf-2ms
1121 [e]	לְבָנַי lib-nê	to the sons	Prep-l N-mpc
3478 [e]	יִשְׂרָאֵל yis-rā-'êl	of Israel	N-proper-ms
1961 [e]	אֲנִי 'eh-yeh	I AM	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs
7971 [e]	שָׁלַחְנִי šə-lā-ha-nî	has sent me	V-Qal-Perf-3ms 1cs
413 [e]	אֵלֵיכֶם: 'ā-lê-kem	to you	Prep 2mp

Exodus 3:15

¹⁵God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, YHVH, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

וַיֹּאמֶר עוֹד אֱלֹהִים אֶל-מֹשֶׁה כֹּה-תֹאמַר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם
אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב שָׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם זֶה-שְׁמִי לְעֹלָם וְגַם זִכְרִי
לְדֹר דָּר:

Note: in this verse, God used His personal name.

Strong's	Hebrew	English	Morphology
559 [e]	וַיֹּאמֶר way-yō-mer	And said	Conj-w V-Qal- ConseclImperf-3ms
5750 [e]	עוֹד 'ō-wd	moreover	Adv
430 [e]	אֱלֹהִים 'ē-lō-hîm	God	N-mp
413 [e]	אֶל- 'el-	to	Prep
4872 [e]	מֹשֶׁה mō-šeh	Moses	N-proper-ms
3541 [e]	כֹּה- kōh-	thus	Adv

559 [e]	תֹּאמַר tō-mar	you shall say	V-Qal-Imperf-2ms
413 [e]	אֶל- 'el-	to	Prep
1121 [e]	בְּנֵי bē-nê	the sons	N-mpc
3478 [e]	יִשְׂרָאֵל yis-rā-'êl	of Israel	N-proper-ms
3068 [e]	יְהוָה Yah-weh	Yahweh	N-proper-ms
430 [e]	אֱלֹהֵי 'ē-lō-hê	God	N-mpc
1 [e]	אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם 'ā-bō-tê-kem,	of your fathers	N-mpc 2mp
430 [e]	אֱלֹהֵי 'ē-lō-hê	the God	N-mpc
85 [e]	אֲבִרְהָם 'ab-rā-hām	of Abraham	N-proper-ms
430 [e]	אֱלֹהֵי 'ē-lō-hê	the God	N-mpc
3327 [e]	יִצְחָק yis-hāq	of Isaac	N-proper-ms
430 [e]	וְאֱלֹהֵי wê-lō-hê	and the God	Conj-w N-mpc
3290 [e]	יַעֲקֹב ya-'ā-qōb	of Jacob	N-proper-ms
7971 [e]	שָׁלַחַנִּי šā-lā-ha-nî	has sent me	V-Qal-Perf-3ms 1cs
413 [e]	אֵלֵיכֶם 'ā-lê-kem;	to you	Prep 2mp
2088 [e]	זֶה zeh-	This [is]	Pro-ms
8034 [e]	שְׁמִי šō-mî	My name	N-msc 1cs

5769 [e]	לְעֹלָם lə-‘ō-lām.	forever	Prep-l N-ms
2088 [e]	וְזֶה wə-zeh	and this [is]	Conj-w Pro-ms
2143 [e]	זִכְרִי zik-rî	My memorial	N-msc 1cs
1755 [e]	לְדֹר lə-dōr	to	Prep-l N-ms
1755 [e]	דֹּר: dōr.	all generations	N-ms