

## Gleanings from the Pentateuch

*"The Shema"*  
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

## The Shema

### Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear (*shema*), O Israel, the LORD our God; the LORD is one!

And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

## The Shema

### 1. Fundamental Affirmation

➤ *"Yahweh our God; Yahweh alone!"*

#### A. Primary Significance

- Yahweh is uniquely their God (covenant)
- Yahweh is exclusively their God (no other)

## The Shema

### 1. Fundamental Affirmation

➤ *"Yahweh our God; Yahweh alone!"*

#### B. Secondary Significance

- monotheism – He is the only God
- singularity – not a plurality of gods

## The Shema

### 2. Fundamental Obligation

➤ *"Love Yahweh your God"*

#### A. It is the response to God's love

- The command to love is in light of God's love already displayed toward them
- God's unmerited, unfathomable, electing love elicits/demands their love

## The Shema

### 2. Fundamental Obligation

➤ *"Love Yahweh your God"*

#### B. It is supreme and all-encompassing

- "all your heart" – intellect, will, intention
- "all your soul" – the whole being/self
- "all your might" – exceedingly

## The Shema

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### 2. Fundamental Obligation

➤ *“Love Yahweh your God”*

C. It is the fountain of all obedience

- it is the source and spring from which all other obedience flows
- complete, whole-hearted obedience is the primary expression of this love

## The Shema

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### *Do you love God this way?*

1. The Commitment of Love

- Do you delight in obeying God's Word?
- Do you “love your neighbor as yourself”?

## The Shema

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### *Do you love God this way?*

2. The Supremacy of Love

- Are there things/people other than God that take center stage in your affections?
- Do you love other things/people in relation to God and for His sake?

## The Shema

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*“He loves Thee too little who loves anything together with Thee, which He loves not for Thy sake”*

-- Augustine