

THE SHEMA

DEUTERONOMY 6 | ERIC SIMPSON | APRIL 18, 2021

When reading through difficult sections of Scripture...

1. **The Bible was written for us, but not to us.**
2. **We ask the question—How would the original audience at that time, in that setting have understood the words/commands/laws?**

Three categories of Old Testament law:

- *ceremonial law* = regulated religious celebrations & feasts
- *civil law* = gave boundaries for punishment, property, & personal injury
- *moral law* = conduct God expected in living life w/ Him & one another

The ceremonial and civil laws no longer apply to us but the moral law (10 commandments) still does.

"God cares enough to show us his ways and direct our paths. How awful it would be to inhabit this world, have some idea that there is a God, and yet not know what he desires from us. Divine statutes are a gift to us. God gives us law because he loves." - C.S. Lewis

3. **Run it through the Jesus filter.**

Recommended resource:

How (Not) To Read the Bible by Dan Kimball

Deuteronomy = the second time

- Moses is 120 years old and is about to die.
- He will pass the baton of leadership to Joshua who will lead them into the promised land.
- Moses gathers the nation together for his final words.

Deuteronomy 6:1

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

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

⁴ *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.* ⁵ *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

Shema (sha-mah) = hear, listen (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

The Nature of God = the Lord is one, especially important in light of where they've come from (Egypt) and where they're headed (land of Canaan), both intensely polytheistic cultures, the issue of the nations surrounding the Israelites wasn't that they weren't worshipping anything it's that they were worshipping everything

"The most important thing about us is what we think about God." - A.W. Tozer

The Expectation of God = based on who God is and all He's done, love God with all that you are

loving God = obeying God

Deuteronomy 10:12, 11:22, 19:9

John 14:15, 14:23

kol/(kole) = an entirety of being, whole, complete, all-encompassing

"God, command what you wish and provide for whatever you command." - St. Augustine