

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS were written with God's own Hand, on THE TWO TABLETS OF STONE. (And they are the foundation upon which all the other Laws, Precepts and Statutes of God are based.)

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT was built to hold THE TWO TABLETS OF STONE upon which THE TEN COMMANDMENTS were written. The very reason for making THE ARK OF THE COVENANT was to hold THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD. (They are the foundation for all of the other Laws, Statutes and Ordinances of God.)

THE HOLY OF HOLIES was to surround THE ARK OF THE COVENANT and the purpose of THE ARK OF THE COVENANT was to hold THE TWO TABLETS OF STONE upon which God, with His Own Hand had written THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. (Remember, they are the foundation upon which all the other Laws, Precepts and Statutes of God are based.)

THE TABERNACLE was the focus of Israel's worship. And THE TABERNACLE'S purpose was to encompass or surround that which was at its core; which was THE HOLY OF HOLIES, which was built to surround THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. And what was the purpose of THE ARK OF THE COVENANT? It had been built to hold THE TWO TABLETS OF STONE. Upon which God, with His Own Hand, had written THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. (Upon which all the other Laws, Ordinances and Precepts of God are based.)

Later when the Temple was built it was the focus of Israel's worship. At its core was THE HOLY OF HOLIES, is where THE ARK OF THE COVENANT was placed. In THE ARK OF THE COVENANT was where THE TWO TABLETS OF STONE upon which God's Own Hand had written THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, were placed. (They were still the foundation upon which all the other Laws, Precepts and Statutes of God are based.)

When The Children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob prayed, they would turn toward the Tabernacle or Temple as the case may have been. And in doing so they were turning toward THE HOLY OF HOLIES, with THE ARK OF THE COVENANT as its focus. And the primary occupant of THE ARK OF THE COVENANT was THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. For which it was built to house. The Children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; thereby, had their entire attention turned toward THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. (Why? Because they were given by THE ALMIGHTY Himself and they are the foundation upon which all the other Laws, Precepts and Statutes of God are based.)

Even today, the Faithful Jewish Individuals of the world still turn and face the last known place of THE TWO TABLETS OF STONE, upon which THE TEN COMMANDMENTS were written by God's Own Hand. (THE TEN COMMANDMENTS are still the foundation upon which all the other Laws, Precepts and Statutes of God are based.)

In the scriptures THE TEN COMMANDMENTS are referred to as עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרִים which means: Ten (or Set of Ten) עֲשֶׂרֶת The Words הַדְּבָרִים, **THE TEN WORDS** or **THE SET OF TEN WORDS** .

Exodus 34:28 (NIV)

(28) Moses was there with the **LORD** forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And **HE** wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant – the Ten **עשרת הדברים** Commandments **הדברים** (עשרת הדברים).

Deuteronomy 4:12-13 (NIV)

(12) Then the **LORD** spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice.

(13) He declared to you His covenant, the Ten **עשרת הדברים** Commandments **הדברים** (עשרת הדברים), which He commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets.

Deuteronomy 10:4-5 (NIV)

(4) The **LORD** wrote on these tablets what He had written before, the Ten **עשרת הדברים** Commandments **הדברים** (עשרת הדברים) He had proclaimed to you on the mountain, out of the fire, on the day of the assembly. And the **LORD** gave them to me.

(5) Then I came back down the mountain and put the tablets in the Ark I had make, as the **LORD** commanded me, and they are there now.

As in most of the Scriptures, there is first an obvious meaning and then there are additional deeper meanings as well. The portion of Scripture called THE SHEMA is no different.

THE SHEMA can refer to just the portion of Scripture in Deut. 6:4, while other times it may refer to the *Krait Shema* or READING OF THE SHEMA that includes three additional portions of Scripture. In that case, in addition to Deut. 6:4, it also includes Deut. 6:5-9 (*V'ahavta* – וְאָהַבְתָּ), Deut. 11:13-21 (*V'haya* – וְהָיָה) and Num. 15:37-21 (*Vayomer* – וַיֹּאמֶר).

Deuteronomy 6:4, 5-9 (NASB)

(4) “Hear, O Israel! The **LORD** is our God, the **LORD** is one!”

(5) “And you shall love the **LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

(6) “And these words **הדברים** (עשרת הדברים ?), which I am commanding (מצוך) you today, shall be on your heart;

(7) and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

(8) “And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.”

(9) “And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

The obvious question is: Does the word הדברים (translated as “words” in the second verse of the Shema or *Krait Shema*) only refer to the words of the current and preceding verses (4 and 5) or does it also refer to the עשרת הדברים (The Ten Commandments)? It is possible that the intended use of the word הדברים (translated as “words”) may well have been used to also have an additional or second meaning; that additional or second meaning may well be The Commandments. Even if one takes the position that the Hebrew word הדברים was not intended as being a direct reference to The Commandment; they still have to deal with an additional argument to the contrary. Which is that it may be referring back to Deuteronomy chapter 5 which precedes the first paragraph of the Shema (or *Krait Shema*) which is in Deuteronomy chapter 6 (originally there were no chapter breaks in The Scriptures). And Deuteronomy chapter 5 contains THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. So, “these words הדברים” in verse 6, it could (and probably does) also be referring back a little earlier in the text to THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, in chapter 5 as well. If so, הדברים would not only be referring to **THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT** (Love the LORD with all your heart, mind and soul, the second verse in the Shema or *Krait Shema* !) but also to THE TEN COMMANDMENTS as well! It should be noted that it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to truly Love ALMIGHTY GOD with **all your heart**, with **all your mind** and with **all your soul**, and still overlook or ignore His - TEN COMMANDMENTS!

This seems to also be confirmed by some additional evidence, which is that originally THE TEN COMMANDMENTS from Deuteronomy were recited along with the three paragraphs of the Shema (or *Krait Shema*), **in the Temple service!**

So then it should come as no surprise to you, that a number of early Tefillin from before the time of the destruction of the Second Temple, have been found to contain THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (from Deuteronomy), as well as the traditional passages of scripture, which are used in today’s Tefillin. (Jesus condemned the perversion of Tefillin or Phylacteries, thereby upholding their proper use! Matthew 23:5) By having this additional quote in their Tefillin, their worship would encompass both accounts of THE TEN COMMANDMENTS found in the Torah. With the first of these accounts being written on THE TWO TABLET OF STONE, which they would turn toward as they faced the Temple Mount for prayer; as you will remember, this is the place of THE HOLY OF HOLIES, within which was THE ARK OF THE COVENANT, with its primary contents being THE TWO STONE TABLETS, upon which God wrote THE TEN COMMANDMENT with his Own Hand. The second account, being the one from Deuteronomy, where they were written on parchment and placed in their Tefillin, so that THE TEN COMMANDMENTS would not only be a part of their prayers place of origin, but The Ten Commandment would also be a part of where the prayers were being directed. With the person in prayer putting THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT (the Shema or *Krait Shema*) and THE TEN COMMANDMENTS which were both in their Tefillin as physically close as possible to their Hearts, Minds and Souls. This would have apparently been their physical expression of their deep desire to have GOD’S WORDS to be also spiritually written on their Hearts, their Minds and their Souls.

Perhaps this was an expression of their desire, those who were truly Righteous and Devout, to be both physically and spiritually, among the participants in “**The New Covenant**”, which God had prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31, 33

Jeremiah 31:31, 33 (NASB)

(31) “The time is coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a **New Covenant** with the
house of Israel and with the house of Judah”

(33) “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD, “I will put My Law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

When THE ALMIGHTY gave the injunction in the first paragraph of the Shema (or *Krait Shema*) using the word *הַדְּבָרִים* (meaning “words”) He knew that it was possible for it to be taken in more than one way. Could it be, that He did so, because He wanted to see how various individuals would choose to deal with the dilemma that it would present to them?

So, what about the Modern Messianic Believers of today? How should they address this? What should they think about it?

Hebrews 10:16 (NASB)

(16) “This is the Covenant that I will make with them after those days,” Says the LORD: “I will put My Laws upon their Heart, And upon their Mind I will write them.”

If the Modern Messianic Believers truly desire for their worship to be both physically and spiritually complete, in order to become as close to God as is humanly possible. Then at the very least, would they not need to want to use Tefillin with the Passages of Scripture that are still in use today? Since this does certainly meet the basic Scriptural and Biblical requirements, their use would certainly fulfill a person’s Scripture Obligations in this area. The Scripture which today’s Tefillin do still have in them, even today, include what Jesus said was THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT, even though most of the Tefillin of today, do not contain THE TEN COMMANDMENTS from Deuteronomy within them.

As for those Christians who are part of one of the numerous Christian Denominations and are not part of anyone of the various Messianic Movements around today, what should they do? At the very least they should **not** relegate THE TEN COMMANDMENTS to just a loose and optional guide for living, as some Denominations seemed to have done.

What was it Jesus said; when He was asked, which is **THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT**?

Mark 12:28-34 (NASB)

(28) And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What Commandment is the foremost of all?”

(29) **Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD;” (Deut. 6:4 - the first verse of the Shema)**

(30) **AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.”** (Deut. 6:5 - the second verse of the Shema)

(31) **“The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’” (Lev. 19:18)**

There is no other commandment greater than these.”

(32) And the scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher, You have truly stated the HE IS ONE; AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM;

(33) AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE’S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than ALL burnt offerings and sacrifices.” (1st Samuel 15:22, Hosea 6:6 and Micah 6:6-8)

(34) And when Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him. **“You are not far from the Kingdom of God.”** And after that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

We have seen that ALMIGHTY GOD has placed THE TEN COMMANDMENTS at the very heart and core of His dealing with the people of God, throughout the Bible. And not only that, we have also seen that Jesus appears to have just stated; in the above New Testament quote that a person can-not truly, **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength”**, without also seeking to obey THE TEN COMMANDMENT OF GOD with **all** the God-given ability, that God has given them! And in addition to that, it also appears to be part of what God requires from each and every person, before they can enter into, and become a part of, **THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**