

D'varim and Deliverance in Luke 4

[\(Luke 4; Va'etchanan \(D'varim/Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11\) B"H 5783](#)

The Word of God provides for our deliverance from ha-satan's attacks. Today, we look at how our Savior used Scripture during the wilderness temptation in Luke 4 to cause the enemy to flee!

- [The enemy's limited tactics: he waits for us to be weak](#)
- [Trials, tests, and temptation: augmented when hungry!](#)
- [How our LORD responded to temptation using D'varim](#)
 - [Attack/Temptation #1](#)
 - [Attack/Temptation #2](#)
 - [Attack/Temptation #3](#)
- [The devil was left speechless](#)

The enemy's limited tactics: he waits for us to be weak

Have you ever noticed that the enemy of our souls preys upon us in our **weak** moments?

David certainly knew it:

["For the enemy has persecuted my soul;
He has crushed my life to the ground;
He has made me dwell in darkness,
Like those who have long been dead.
Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me;
My heart within me is distressed."](#) Psalm 143:3-4, NKJV

When we are at our best, fully confident of our place as children of the Most High God because of what our Savior and

Messiah Jesus (*Yeshua*) has done for us and we are walking in the anointing of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) – it is much more difficult for *ha-satan* (satan) to attack. When we are physically healthy and strong, it is also more difficult for the enemy to attack because our alertness is at a peak – we are prayed-up and fighting off those enemy darts!

So why does the devil have difficulty attacking?

The devil is limited!

Unlike *ADONAI Tzva'ot* (the LORD of Hosts),

the devil is

not omnipotent

not omnipresent

not omniscient.

Like any mediocre warrior, the devil waits for **you** to feel weak, and then he strikes.

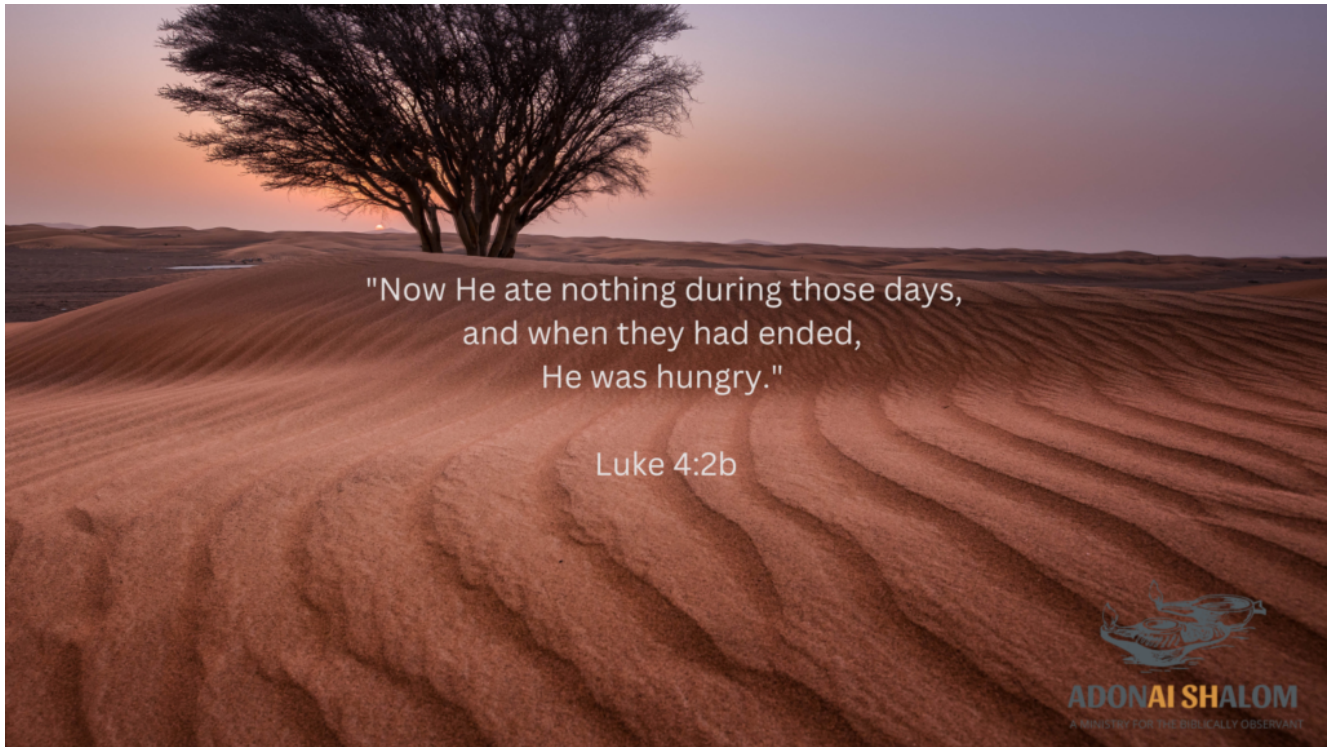
Trials, tests, and temptation: augmented when hungry!

It was no different when our Savior walked the earth.

Yeshua (Jesus) was led by the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) into the desert wilderness for forty days.

Notice that [Luke, a trained physician](#), mentions the physical hunger that Yeshua (Jesus) was experiencing:

[“Now He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He was hungry.” Luke 4:2b](#)



Our LORD Yeshua (Jesus), fully-God, fully-man was experiencing true physical hunger.

*How do you feel when **you** are hungry?*

It often depends on the day or the circumstances, but I observe that hunger can cause all sorts of issues:

tiredness

irritability

inability to think clearly without distraction

generalized weakness

Symptoms of hunger can make a person susceptible to giving into temptation.

Have you ever promised you would fast, and the first thing that happens when you begin is someone offers you the most decadent dessert or invites you out to eat?

Or maybe something less spiritual.

Maybe you simply want to keep a diet.

You commit to eating your salad greens and limiting your consumption of deep-fried deliciousness, but as soon as you get out of your car when you are heading to work or school you smell the most wonderful scent of fried chicken or some other fast food you love.

The devil knows this. As soon as Yeshua (Jesus) had completed his forty day fast in the wilderness, *hasatan* jumped at the opportunity to tempt *Ben-Elohim*, the Son of God.

How our LORD responded to temptation using D'varim

Attack/Temptation #1

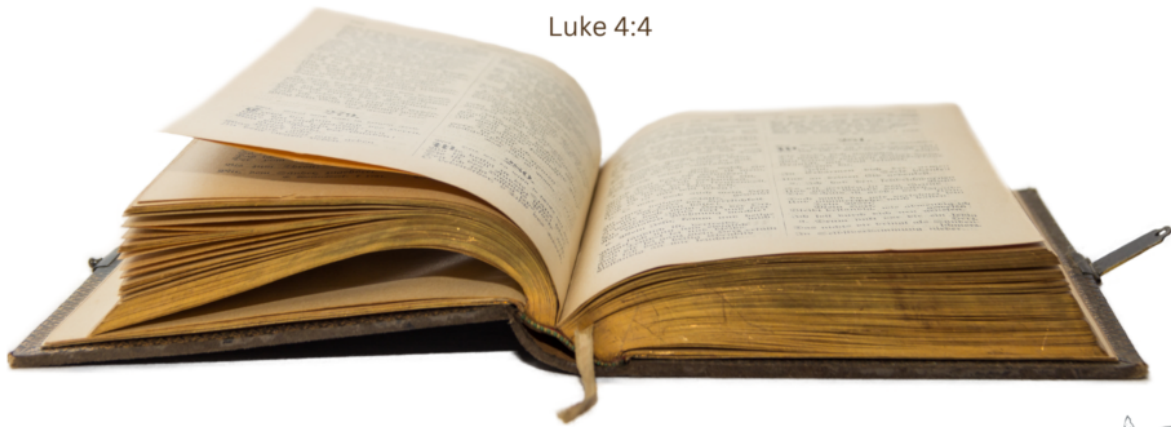
["And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Luke 4:3](#)

Our LORD Yeshua (Jesus) responded using His knowledge of *Torah* (Pentateuch) and more precisely, the book of "*D'varim*," which translates as the book of "Words." (We know it as "Deuteronomy"):

["But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' " Luke 4:4](#)

"But Jesus answered him, saying,
"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word of God.' "

Luke 4:4



The LORD Yeshua (Jesus) quoted the Words:

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that **man shall not live by bread alone;** but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD." *D'varim/Deuteronomy 8:3, emphasis added*

Attack/Temptation #2

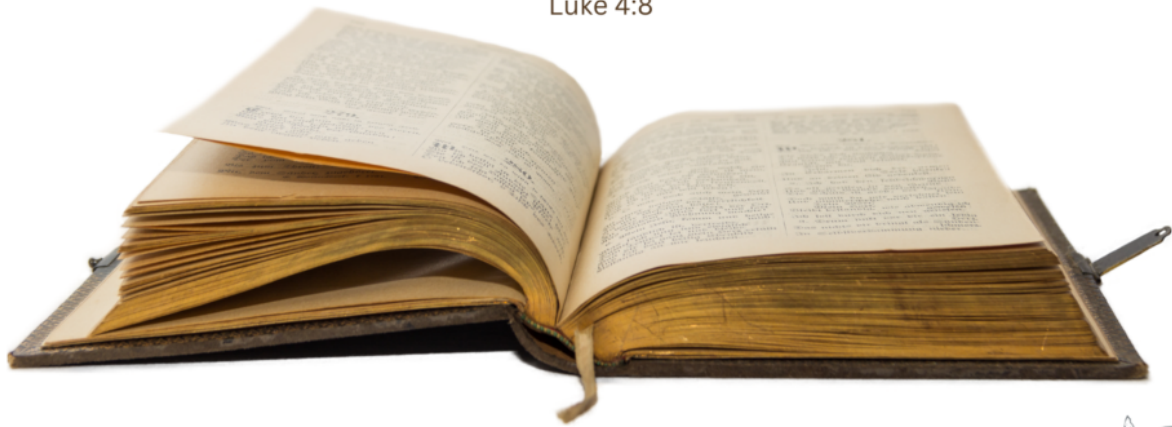
"Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." Luke 4:5-7

How did our Wise and Holy Savior Yeshua (Jesus) respond? Again with a passage from *Torah*, specifically Deuteronomy:

"And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, '**You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.**' " Luke 4:8, *emphasis added*

"And Jesus answered and said to him,
"Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written,
'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Luke 4:8



But notice here: **before quoting Scripture this time, our Messiah addressed the devil directly, ordering him to “Get thee behind.”**

This is important for us today because the devil continues to be a bother.

The devil's attacks are vicious and he looks for whom he may devour:

[“Stay alert! Watch out! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, searching for someone to devour.” Luke 4:8, TLV](#)



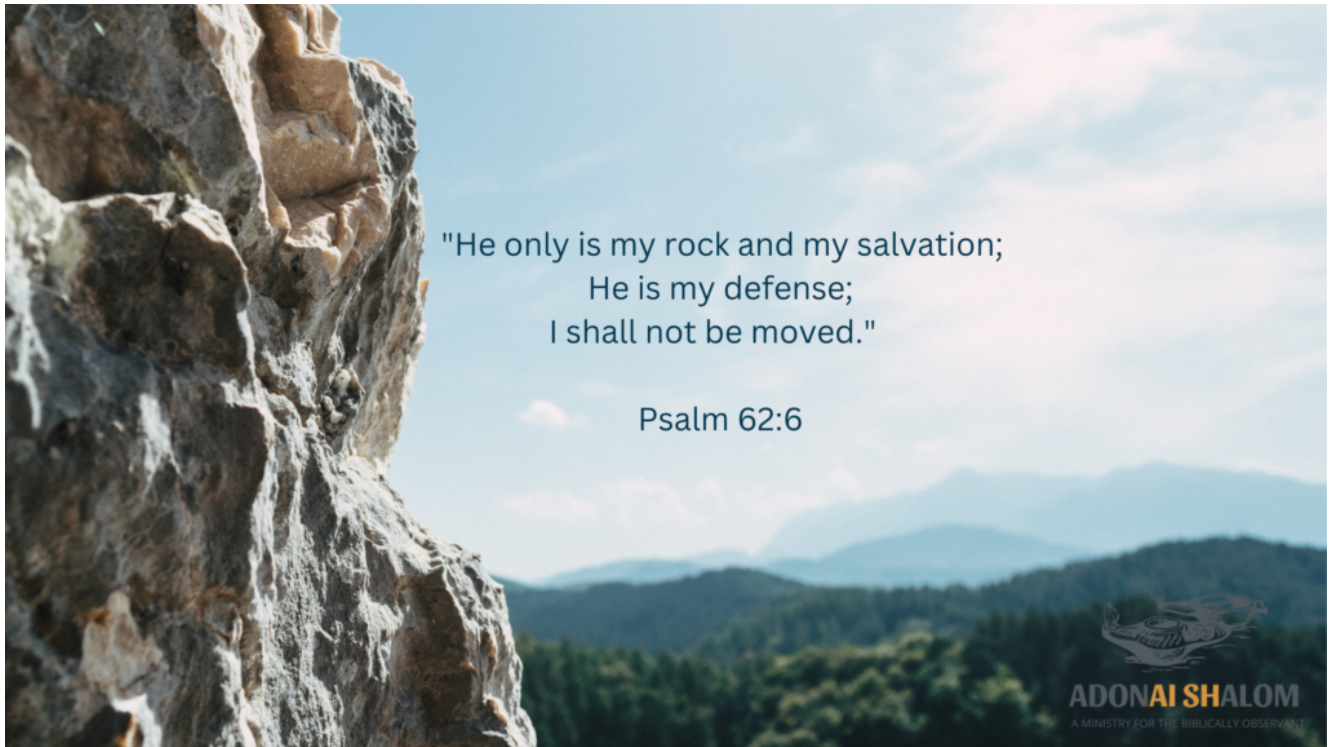
It is critical to put on the armor of God!

Keep it shined up and ready for battle, not rusting away in a closet somewhere!

[“Put on the full armor of God, so that you are able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11](#)

Deliverance is dependent upon confessing trust in the Liberator – the God of Israel and His Son Yeshua (Jesus) – and upon knowing the Word and how to use it! Remember, the LORD is your defense and He has provided His Incarnate Word to lead us to victory.

[“He only is my rock and my salvation;
He is my defense;
I shall not be moved.” Psalm 62:6](#)



"He only is my rock and my salvation;
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Psalm 62:6

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Another point of note: during the second temptation, *hasatan* adds pressure to his demand by citing his own (limited) authority. This tactic is further augmented in the third temptation as we will see.

Attack/Temptation #3

"Then he brought Yeshua to Jerusalem and placed Him on the highest point of the Temple. He said to Him, 'If You are *Ben-Elohim*, throw Yourself down from here.'" Luke 4:9

If you noticed that the devil cited his own authority in the second temptation, notice that in the third temptation he goes so far as to cite the *LORD's* own authority by using Scripture, specifically [Psalm 91](#):

"For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you,' and,

'In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " Luke 4:10-11

The devil is desperate!

Surely, the devil doesn't appreciate Scripture because he knows his future is sealed.

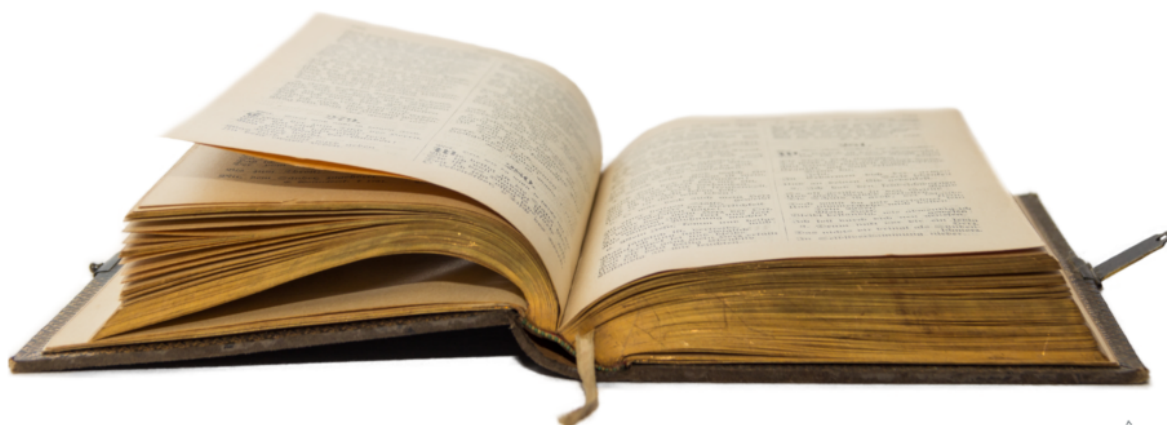
Yet *hasatan* (satan) will do absolutely anything and everything just for the chance to make a person fall into sin and destruction, and ultimately death.

The LORD again cites [D'varim. Deuteronomy 6:16](#):

["And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' " Luke 4:12](#)

"And Jesus answered and said to him,
"It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' "

Luke 4:12



You shall not tempt the LORD your God.

Yeshua (Jesus) is reaffirming that the LORD is God and that even the devil must acknowledge that Truth.

The devil was left speechless

Do you notice that after each Scriptural response, the devil had no comeback?

That ugly serpent couldn't come up with a suitable

counterargument.

So he left. Only for the time being, but the point is – the devil had to flee because he is put to shame by the power of the Word of God.

So be sure to study the Word for yourself!

Here is a wonderful song that can help you memorize [Psalm 62](#):

When the devil wants to come against you, stand firm on the Truth of Scripture and he will have to leave you alone.

Let us look to our Almighty Savior for the best example of what to do when the devil wants to confuse us or twist Scripture for his own benefit. Know the Word for yourself and stand firm in your faith!

Sh'ma: The Greatest Commandment

Parashat Va'etchanan ([D'varim/Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11](#)) 5782 B"H

A Question about the Torah (שאלה *sh'eilah*)

One day a Pharisee asked Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) this question:

[“Rabbi, which is the greatest commandment in the Torah?”
Matthew 22:36](#)

He was asking what is known as a *sh'eilah* – a question regarding the Torah. This Pharisee happened to be a lawyer. As

such, he was trying to set up an argument *against* our Savior, but our LORD All-Wise and All-Knowing answered *perfectly*:

And He said to him, “‘You shall love ADONAI your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire Torah and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40



Yeshua quoted Scripture to answer the Pharisee's question

Yeshua (Jesus) recited [D'varim \(Deuteronomy\) 6:4-9](#) to respond to the Pharisee's question about the Greatest Commandment. Messiah faithfully pointed back to the Scriptures that even the Pharisees knew so well. Rabbi Yeshua couldn't be accused of "adding" or "inventing" a new faith.

He was pointing out that it was time to **live the faith!**

Because in Him, **having a living faith would be possible**

because the Lord Yeshua alone was Perfect and He alone would fulfill Torah, giving us the possibility of new and eternal life if we will trust in Him.

The Greatest Commandment(s) are about love.

The Sh'ma

[D'varim/Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#) is known in Judaism as the *Sh'ma* (also spelled out as *Shema*):

"Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love ADONAI your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These words, which I am commanding you today, are to be on your heart. You are to teach them diligently to your children, and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. Bind them as a sign on your hand, they are to be as frontlets between your eyes, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."
[D'varim/Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#)



This text is recited daily by Jewish people around the world.

Sh'ma means "Hear." ["So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Messiah." Romans 10:17](#)

There are many Jewish people who know this passage very well, but have no idea it is the Greatest Commandment according to the Messiah! By reciting it with such passion and dedication, they are actually **in agreement** with the New Testament (*Br'it Chadashah*)! The testimony of generations proclaims the importance of *Sh'ma*, but not everyone has yet realized its fulfillment in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ).

When we speak or sing the words of the Sh'ma, all of us can be reminded of several important truths that I believe can be listed out like note-taking . . .

Important Truths about the Greatest Commandment:

1. The LORD: YHWH: ADONAI: He is.
2. The LORD is our God. This is collective. He is the God of our nation and our communities if we will choose to follow Him.
3. He is One. He has made Himself known as our Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He is Elohim (*a plural term in Hebrew*), but He is also One. There are no other gods. We are not pluralists or polytheists. These verses establish monotheism.
4. We are Israel. These verses speak to a Holy Nation, a set apart people. Whether native-born or grafted in, those who have chosen to follow Messiah are part of Israel. So these verses are true for you and me.
5. We are to love the LORD our God. The Sh'ma points back to the First Commandment, which was given just one chapter earlier ([D'varim/Deuteronomy 5](#)). The Ten Words (aka "Ten Commandments") cannot be lived out and obeyed without first loving their Author. **Notice, the first four commandments require us to love God. The last six**

commandments require us to love our neighbor.

6. These words are so important they are to remain on our heart. [Proverbs 3:3 "Let kindness and truth never leave you— bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."](#) Whatever is on our hearts will also be on our minds, and in this way we will have right thoughts and actions.
7. Children are valued. The Sh'ma assumes there will be children who must be taught. We are responsible to care for them and to "diligently" teach our children. If we are to do this task, we ourselves must be prepared. Therefore, study is expected and each generation is tasked to continue to teach the next.
8. We are to discuss the words of Scripture. We are to speak of these good things when we are in our homes but also when we are walking somewhere. We are to speak of the goodness of God when we are going to bed and when we wake up.
9. Our faith is a part of us – it is to be bound to us. It should be known by your kindness and hospitality that your home is a house where disciples live. Your home should not house idols or worthless things. Your home is a reflection of your faith. Some of us have *mezuzot* מְזוּזוֹת(plural for *mezuzah*) on our doorposts – beautiful reminders that contain the words of Sh'ma in them.

*Sh'ma, Yisrael,
Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad.
Ve'ahavta et Adonai eloheykha bekol-levavkha
u'bekhol nafshekha u'bekhol me'odekha.
Ve'hayu hadevarim ha'eileh asher anakhi
metzavekha hayom al-levavekha.
Veshinantam levavekha vedibarta bam
beshivtekha beveitekha u'velekhtekha vaderekh
u'vshakhekha u'vkumeikha.
U'kshartam le'ot al-yadeikha vehayu
letotafot bein einekha.
U'khtavtam al-mezuzot beitekha u'vsharekha.*

Devarim/Deuteronomy 6:4-9



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Yeshua (Jesus) cited the Sh'ma as the Greatest Commandment!

Yeshua cited the *Sh'ma* as the Greatest Commandment.

We learn from His example that Jesus came not to abolish the Torah, but to fulfill it.

["Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets! I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill." Matthew 5:17](#)

He shows us the law of love – that we must love God and love our neighbor and He did so by pointing back to the Scriptures and demonstrating it by His way of life.

We are challenged to live out the Greatest Commandments as well.

The Sh'ma in Revelation

Would you be surprised to know the *Sh'ma*'s influence is even found all the way in the book of [Revelation](#)?

When Yochanan (John), the writer of [Revelation](#), describes [New Jerusalem](#), he describes the river of the water of life and the throne of God. Notice in verse [Revelation 22:4](#), he writes that "His name shall be on their foreheads." For those who had grown up with the *Sh'ma*, this would be a very obvious allusion to [Deuteronomy 6](#).

["Then the angel showed me a river of the water of life—bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the city's street.](#)

[On either side of the river was a tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.](#)

[No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in the city, and His servants shall serve Him.](#)

[They shall see His face, and **His name shall be on their foreheads.**](#)

[Night shall be no more, and people will have no need for lamplight or sunlight—for *ADONAI Elohim* will shine on them. And they shall reign forever and ever!" Revelation 22:1-5,](#)
emphasis added

The *Sh'ma* in the New Testament

"Then the angel showed me a river of the water of life—bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the city's street.

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They shall see His face, and **His name shall be on their foreheads.**

Night shall be no more, and people will have no need for lamplight or sunlight—
for ADONAI Elohim will shine on them.

And they shall reign forever and ever!"

Revelation 22:1-5, emphasis added



The Consistency and Continuity of Scripture

No other book contains so many cross-references and clear fulfillments of its words as the Bible.

When I first became a follower of Messiah, I was truly fascinated by this reality. For so many years, I had been taught lies that the Scriptures (even from their original form) contained errors and that they were not to be fully trusted.

When I discovered for myself, through the study of the original languages, that the Scriptures were most certainly trustworthy and that their testimony proves the Truth of our Savior's love and sacrifice, I felt free. Scripture is consistent and what I love most is that it proves itself time and time again through God-inspired verses that reveal His Truth.

The *Sh'ma* being the Greatest Commandment proves the continuity of Scripture.

Let us look to Messiah Yeshua's example

Messiah Yeshua taught us to know Scripture, believe it, and use it!

When questioned by a Pharisee about the Greatest Commandment or by the devil himself tempting him in the desert, our LORD always had Scripture to use as armor. His responses were right out of Scripture. This is why Scripture memorization is so important!

When we feel that our faith is being challenged, we must look to our Savior's example. We, too, need the sword of the Spirit to rightly divide the Word of God and stay armed for any spiritual battle. We will not be able to live out the Greatest Commandment to love the LORD our God without dedication to Him and His Word.

[“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15](#), emphasis added

[“And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Ephesians 6:17](#)

Scripture Memorization

It isn't always easy to memorize Scripture, but I find that the more I read the Word of God, it naturally becomes etched in my memory. So read your Bible! Study the Word! And you will reap the benefits of being able to [stand against the wiles of the devil](#) and [give praise to the Almighty One whose Word is so intricately designed and perfect.](#)

Let us love God and love one another, and in so doing, we will fulfill the Greatest Commandments.

What is *your* favorite aspect about Scripture? Are you familiar with the Sh'ma? What tips can you give to others to help them memorize the Word of God? Leave a comment below! We'd love to hear from you!