

# The Shema

Week Two

Listening Guide – Ahavah and Lev

Deb Upton

[Deborah.upton@bonairbaptist.org](mailto:Deborah.upton@bonairbaptist.org)

## Listening Guide:

### I. Ahavah

A. Ahavah can refer to these types of love:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ as in the King of Persia's love for Queen Esther. See Esther 2:17.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ as in the love Abraham had for his son Isaac. See Gen. 22:2.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ as in the friendship David and Jonathan had for each other. See 1 Samuel 18:16.

d. \_\_\_\_\_ as in the good relationship between political allies like Hiram, who because he loved David, he wanted to help David's son build the temple. See 1 Kings 5:1.

B. In Deuteronomy, Moses told the Israelites, God showed \_\_\_\_\_ for you, He chose you...because of His \_\_\_\_\_ for you. See Deut. 7:7-8.

C. God's love is \_\_\_\_\_. It is a part of His own character. See Jer. 31:5.

D. God's love is something God \_\_\_\_\_.

E. And so in the Shema, Israel is called to \_\_\_\_\_ to God's ahavah by \_\_\_\_\_ ahavah in return.

F. Human love is to show itself through \_\_\_\_\_. See Deut. 10:12-13.

G. In Deut. we read that God defends the cause of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, and He shows ahavah for the \_\_\_\_\_ among you--giving them food and clothing--and so you also show \_\_\_\_\_ for the immigrant. See Deut. 10:18-19.

H. "You shall ahavah your neighbor as yourself." See Leviticus 19:18 and Mark 12:31.

### Discussion questions:

1. Do you agree with the statement, "If I am not living according to God's commands in Deut. 10:12-13, I don't actually love God, I just say I do."
2. Who is our neighbor?
3. How do you ahavah your neighbor during a time of social distancing?

### II. Lev

- A. The ancient Israelites knew that the heart was an organ in the chest that sustains life; there's even a \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible. See I Samuel 25:37.
- B. They imagined that all of a human's \_\_\_\_\_ activity takes place in the heart:
- a. Your heart is where you \_\_\_\_\_ and make \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Your heart is where you \_\_\_\_\_ between truth and error.
  - c. Your heart is where you \_\_\_\_\_ and make \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
  - d. Your heart is where you feel \_\_\_\_\_ such as pain or fear but also experience \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. Your heart is the \_\_\_\_\_ of physical life, intellectual and emotional life, but also where you make choices motivated by your \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. " \_\_\_\_\_ your heart, because from it flows your whole life." See Proverbs 4:23.
- D. Jeremiah believed that the human heart was fundamentally \_\_\_\_\_. See Jer. 17:9.

- E. The Hebrew prophets imagined that the only hope for humanity is the total \_\_\_\_\_ of the human heart. See Deut. 30:6, Psalm 51:10, Ez. 36:26, Jer. 31:33.
- F. Every day God's people are called to devote to God their whole body and \_\_\_\_\_, their feelings and their \_\_\_\_\_, their future and their \_\_\_\_\_.

**Discussion questions:**

1. The word heart in Hebrew is expansive and has implications on every part of our lives. Do you refer to "heart" in the same way? If so, in what situations?
2. How does one devote one's entire life—body, mind, feelings, desires, and failures—to God?