

## THE SHEMA

Week One

Listening Guide – Shema and YHWH

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Use this guide to help you take notes on the information in the Tim Mackie Word Study videos on RightNow Media. This week's lesson is on Shema and YHWH. Watch the videos anytime through your free account. (Email [Candyce.saunders@bonairbaptist.org](mailto:Candyce.saunders@bonairbaptist.org) or call her at 804.272.1475 for assistance, if needed.) On Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., with your Bible handy, click onto the ZOOM link. See you there!

### Listening Guide:

#### I. Shema – Hear/Listen

- A. The first word of the Shema is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ which, in Hebrew, is pronounced *shema*.
- B. In Hebrew, shema can also mean \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. It can also mean \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. From God's point of view, listening is basically the same as \_\_\_\_\_ the covenant.
- E. In Hebrew, there is no separate word for \_\_\_\_\_.
- F. Listening in the Bible is about giving \_\_\_\_\_ to the one speaking and \_\_\_\_\_ what they say.
- G. Real listening takes \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion questions for session:

1. What does it mean to say that the LORD is one? One theologian says, "In some ways, God is greater than one because He is complex in His oneness." Would you agree with that?
2. Jesus quotes the Shema in Mark 12:28-30. Why? What does he mean?
3. If there is no Hebrew word for obey, then why do so many English translations use that word? Does this support the view that translating from Hebrew to other languages can be tricky?
4. Let's find an example for "obey" in our English Bibles that proves the point above. Look up Gen. 27:8 and Exodus 3:7. Explain.
5. What does an understanding of the word *listen* in Hebrew teach you about your relationship with God?

#### II. YHWH – The LORD

- A. God's name means that "he is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ and who will \_\_\_\_\_."
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ is the ancient a Hebrew form of "he will be."
- C. Over the centuries, Israelites wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the sacred nature of this divine name.
- D. So when reading the Hebrew Bible aloud, they stopped saying Yahweh and instead started saying the Hebrew word for \_\_\_\_\_, which is *adonai*.
- E. This practice has continued throughout the centuries, and so later when people started translating the Bible into \_\_\_\_\_, they adopted the same practice.
- F. Instead of spelling out the divine name, they translated it as \_\_\_\_\_, spelled in all \_\_\_\_\_.
- G. Ancient Jewish scribes wanted to prevent anyone from accidentally saying this name aloud when reading the Hebrew Bible, so they came up with a \_\_\_\_\_ device to make sure one says *adonai*.
- H. They took the four \_\_\_\_\_ letters of the divine name; then they inserted the three \_\_\_\_\_ from the word \_\_\_\_\_ and combined these to form an artificial hybrid word, which if you pronounced it would say, *yahowah*.
- I. Christian scribes came along who did not know that *yahowah* was an \_\_\_\_\_ word, and they began to say it aloud and spell it in their writings.
- I. This is the word that eventually became \_\_\_\_\_.

**Discussion questions for session:**

1. In Exodus 3:14, *Ehyeh asher Ehyeh*, generally translated into English as "I AM that I AM," means, "I am/I shall be what I shall be," which is a first person singular future tense verb. How does translating this using the future tense makes a difference in our understanding?
2. How does learning about the use of Yahweh, Adonai, Jehovah, etc. in the Bible affect your reading of scripture? Has this added to, lessened, stimulated, confused, or enhanced your understanding?