


**The Decalogue as a Bill of [the next person's] Rights**


**October 9, 2011**

1. YHWH has the right to exclusive allegiance—not only because he has triumphed over all gods Exod 12:12; Num 33:4; Deut 4:34–35, 39., but especially because he has graciously redeemed Israel, brought her to himself, and entered into covenant relationship with them Exod 19:4–6..
2. YHWH has the right to fair and honest representation. We view bearing the name to mean primarily claiming YHWH as one's God and covenant Lord; to bear it falsely (לִשְׁוֹא) means to claim this name, but live as if one belongs to Baal or some other god (cf. Isa 44:2-5).
3. YHWH has the right to the Israelite's life and trust (Exodus version), and all the members of the addressee's household, including the livestock, have the right to humane treatment by the male head (Deuteronomy version).
4. The addressee's parents have the right to his respect, which will mean more than pietistically verbalizing honor, but concretely caring for them in their old age and honoring them after death.
5. The addressee's family members and neighbors have the right to life.
6. The addressee's neighbor has the right to a pure and healthy marriage.
7. The addressee's neighbors have the right to their own property.
8. The addressee's neighbors have the right to a true and honest reputation.
9. The addressee's neighbor and his wife have the right to freedom from fear of his intentions regarding them.
10. The addressee's neighbor has the right to freedom from fear of his intentions concerning his property.

The Shema   
 Deuteronomy 6:4-9

A. The Structure of 6:4-8:20




Structural Feature	6:10–25	7:1–26	8:1–20
Rhetorical Presentation of the Test	The Internal and External Tests (10–19)	The External Test (1–16)	The Internal Test (1–16)
Audience Response	Question from Child: What is the meaning of these commandments? (20)	Question from Audience: How can I dispossess these nations? (17)	Conclusion by Audience: I have achieved this myself. (17)
Rhetorical Answer	Moses' Catechetical Answer (21–25)	Moses' Promise and Warning (18–26)	Moses' Reminder and Warning (18–20)

B. The Focus of Covenant Commitment (6:4)—But what does the Shema  mean?

1. **The LORD is One?**

- a. The common meaning of Hebrew *'eh ʾad*
- b. The Nash Papyrus
- c. The Septuagint: κυριος ο θεος ημων κυριος εις εστιν
- d. The New Testament : Mark 12:29 κυριος ο θεος ημων κυριος εις εστιν. But note v. 32

2. **The LORD alone?**

- a. The meaning of Hebrew *'eh ʾad*
- b. The syntax of the Shema 
- c. The immediate context of the Shema  (v. 5)
- d. The broader context (vv. 12-15)
- e. The historical context of the Shema 

C. **The Locus of Covenant Commitment (6:5)**

D. The Dimensions of Covenant Commitment (6:6-9)

- a. Covenant commitment as a personal matter.
- b. Covenant commitment as a family matter.
- c. Covenant commitment as a communal matter.