



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.