

Two

LESSONS FROM THE PAGES OF DEUTERONOMY

“And He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in and give us the land that He swore to give to our fathers.”

- Deuteronomy 6:23 (ESV)

PART ONE: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Known to Jewish tradition as the Shema. (Named after the first word of v. 4, the imperative of the verb šama', “ to hear ”)

The Jewish Study Bible translation of Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.” (p.379)

- The order of the segment is critically important: the loving drives the living.
- Both the loving and the living are meant to be theocentrically invasive.

PART TWO: Deuteronomy 7:7-9

⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his (A) love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD (B) loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast (C) love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. (ESV)

(A) **V.7 “the LORD set his love”** – Hebrew “hasaq” - “love, desire, bind, bound” (Holladay, W. L., Köhler, L., & Baumgartner, W. 1971.

A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, p.120); “has the sense of joining together, adhering to, cleaving.” (Key Word Study Bible OT-Lexical Aids, #3137) Sometimes referred to as “a tethered love.” (Max Lucado, 3:16 *The Numbers of Hope*)

Dr. Walter Brueggemann – “The verb (hasaq) bespeaks a strong emotional attachment that runs beyond any reasonable, explicable act. YHWH made a leap of love in committing to Israel.” p.96

Used in Isaiah 38:17 – Literally “thou hast loved my soul out of the pit” (*Enhanced Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, pgs.365-366)

