

# DEUTERONOMY 6

## TEFILLIN

- Rambam = Maimonides
- The purpose of *Tefillin*, *tsitsit*, and a *mezuzah* are to keep the Lord and His commands in constant reminder
- Angel = *malach*
- *Malach* = messenger



# Shema

(Deuteronomy 6:4 with a traditional melody)

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֶחָד.  
Shema Yisrael,  
Adonai Elohaynoo, Adonai echad.

The translation may or may not be recited:

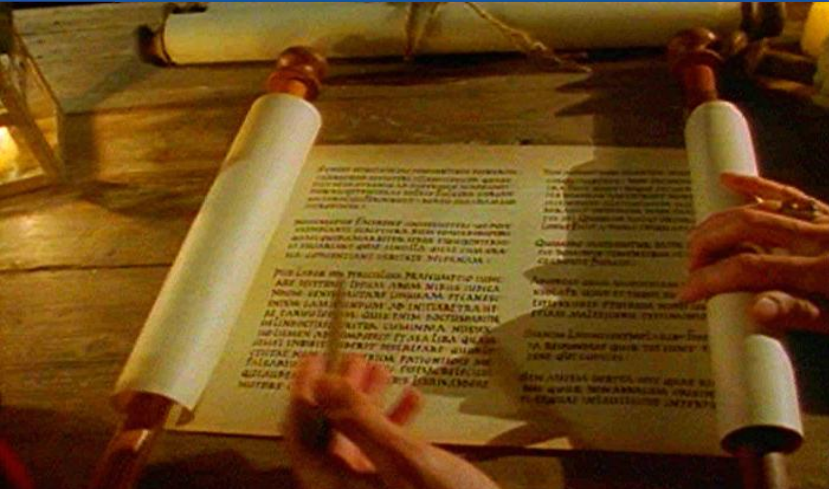
Hear O Israel,  
Adonai is your God, Adonai is one.

***“These Words are to be on your heart....”***

- ***Shema*** is the central tenet of the Judeo-Christian faith
- ***“these words”*** refer to the Shema & ALL the laws and commands of God
- To **“love the Lord your God”** is the **CONTEXT** in which the Law is to be carried out



# THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD AS THE TEACHER



➤ *“when at home...when away....when you lie down....when you get up...”*

➤ Merism = a poetic statement whereby a single thought is referred to by enumerating its main parts or outer boundaries

➤ This statement means “at all times...”





***“Bind these commands  
as a sign on our  
hands.....forehead..”***

- Judaism is undecided whether this is literal or a metaphor
- ***Tefillin*** is Hebrew
- ***Phylactery*** is Greek
- Leather boxes with straps
- Four passages of Scripture usually inside the boxes
- Worn during morning prayers BUT not normally on Shabbat





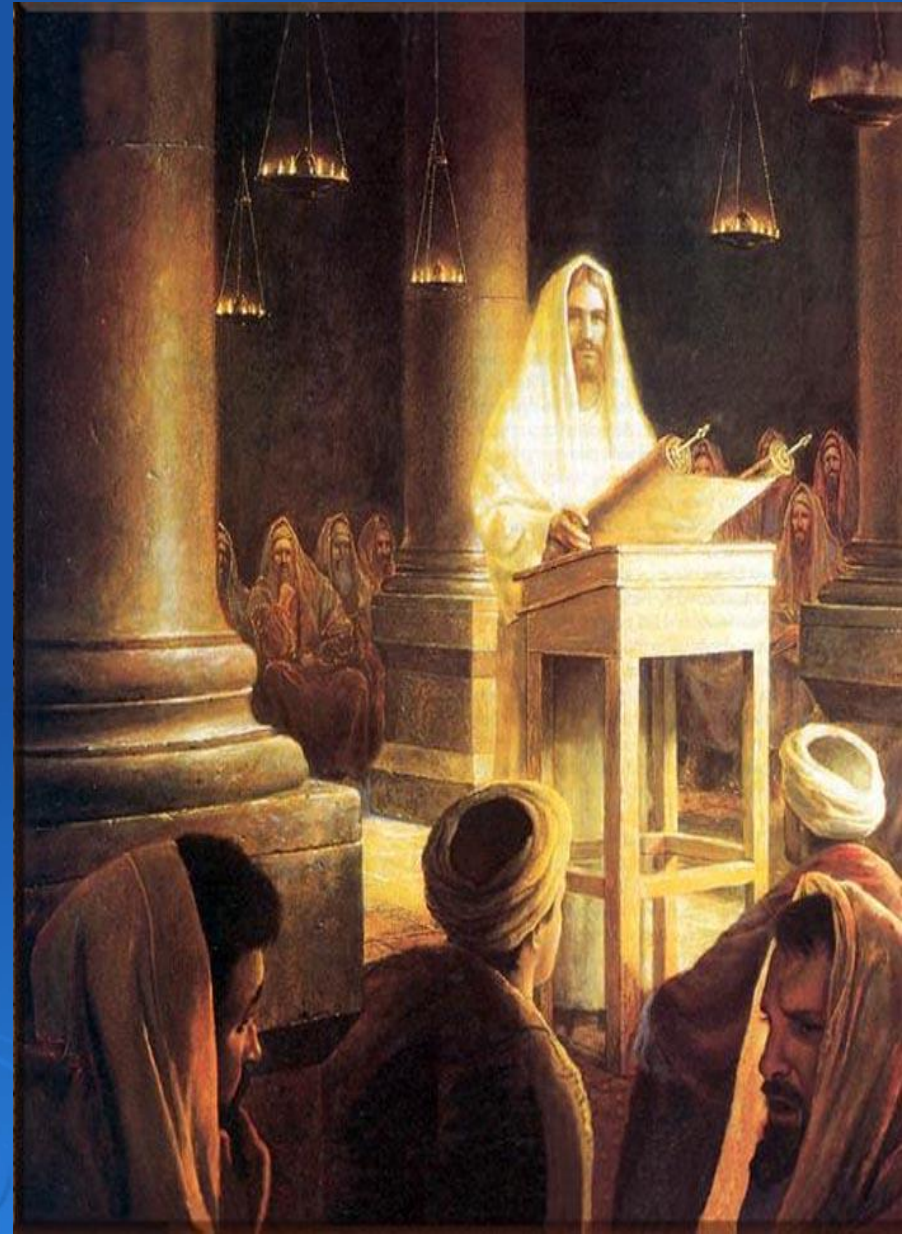
# TEFILLIN IS A TRADITION

- Wearing Tefillin started no earlier than 250 B.C.
- Pharisees wore Tefillin all day long!
- Samaritan Jews did NOT believe in wearing Tefillin
- No evidence of use of Tefillin in the Galilee area
- Tefillin found at Qumran, so Essenes wore it



# DID JESUS WEAR TEFILLIN?

- Probably NOT!
- Common peasants (especially from Galilee) were NOT known to wear Tefillin
- IS WEARING TEFILLIN WRONG? NO!!!!
- But it is NOT a direct or clear Biblical command
- Rambam and many great Jewish sages agree that it is a metaphor
- Phylactery is a common Greek word for “amulet”
- Amulet is a magic charm





# THE PROBLEM WITH SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

- Not every symbol of God or Heaven is prohibited
- Torah gives strict rules on the content and use of symbols
- Top on the list is NOT to make an image of Yehoveh as a HUMAN
- NO created things: stars, the moon, animals, fish
- Mezuzahs and tsitsit do NOT violate God's rules regarding symbols





# THE MEZUZAH

- A mezuzah is for remembering
- Placed on city gates or on one's home doorway
- Writing epithets on city entrances or doorways was typical Middle Eastern custom
- ALL Jews in Jesus day did this
- Practice started in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple period (after return from Babylon)





# SMALL SCROLL PLACED INSIDE OF MEZUZAH

- Scroll usually was of Deut.6:4-9 and 11:13-21
- Mezuzahs found at Qumran, so were used by Essenes
- Like Tefillin, Mezuzahs at times were given a “magical” quality



עָמַדְתָּ יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָהוָה אֶחָד וְאֵהָבַת אֶת  
יְיָהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ כָּכָל לְבָבְךָ וְכָכָל נַפְשֶׁךָ וְכָכָל מְאֹדְךָ וְהָיוּ  
הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אִשְׁרָאֵל אֲנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם עַל לְבָבְךָ וְשִׁנְתֶּם  
לְבָבְךָ וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָּם בְּשִׁלְבֹתֶיךָ בְּבֵיתֶךָ וּבְלִכְתֶּךָ בְּדַרְךָ  
וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ וְקִשְׁרָתָם לְאוֹת עַל יָדְךָ וְהָיוּ כִּטְעָנֹת  
בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ וּכְתִבְתֶּם עֲלֵי מַזְוָזוֹת בֵּיתֶךָ וּבִשְׁעָרֶיךָ  
וְהָיָה אִם עָמַדְתָּ תִשְׁמָעוּךָ אֶל מְצֻוֹתַי אִשְׁרָאֵל אֲנֹכִי  
מְצַוְךָ אֲתִכֶּם הַיּוֹם כִּי אֶהְיֶה אֶת יְיָהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וְלֹעֲבָדוּ  
כָכָל לְבָבְכֶם וְכָכָל נַפְשֵׁיכֶם וְנַתַּתִּי מִטֵּר אֲרֵצְכֶם בְּעֵת  
יָרֵד וּמִלְקוּשׁ וְאִסְפַּחַת רֶגֶזְךָ וְהִתְרַשְׁעֶיךָ וַיִּצְהַרְךָ וְנַתַּתִּי  
עֵשֶׂב בְּשִׁלְדֶיךָ כִּלְדַמְתֶּךָ וְאִכְלִית וְשִׁבְעִית הַשְּׂמֹחַ לֶכֶס  
כֵּן יִתְּנָה לְבָבְכֶם וְסִרְתֶּם וְלֹעֲבָדְתֶם אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים  
וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתֶם לָהֶם וְחָרְדָה אַף יְיָהוָה בְּכֶם וְעִצֵּר אֶת  
הַשְּׂמֹחַ וְכִי יִהְיֶה מִטֵּר וְהִאֲדַמְתָּ לֹא תִתֵּן אֶת יְבוּלָה  
וְאֲבָרְתֶם מֵחֵרֶה מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אִשְׁרָאֵל יְיָהוָה נָתַן לֶכֶס  
וְשִׁלְמֶת אֶת דְּבָרַי אֲכַלָּה עַל לְבָבְכֶם וְעַל נַפְשֵׁיכֶם וְקִשְׁרָתֶם  
אֲתֶם לְאוֹת עַל יָדְכֶם וְהָיוּ כִּטְעָנֹת בֵּין עֵינֵיכֶם וּכְתִבְתֶּם  
אֲתֶם אֶת בְּנֵיכֶם כְּדָבָר בָּם בְּשִׁלְבֹתֶיךָ בְּבֵיתֶךָ וּבְלִכְתֶּךָ  
בְּדַרְךָ וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ וּכְתִבְתֶּם עֲלֵי מַזְוָזוֹת בֵּיתֶךָ  
וּבִשְׁעָרֶיךָ כִּמְעַן יִרְבוּ יְמֵיכֶם וְיָמֵי בְנֵיכֶם עַל הָאָרֶץ  
אִשְׁרָאֵל נְשִׁבְעָה יְיָהוָה לְאֲבֹתֵיכֶם כִּתְּתָה לָהֶם כִּימֵי הַשְּׂמֹחַ  
עַל הָאָרֶץ

# MEZUZAH PLACEMENT

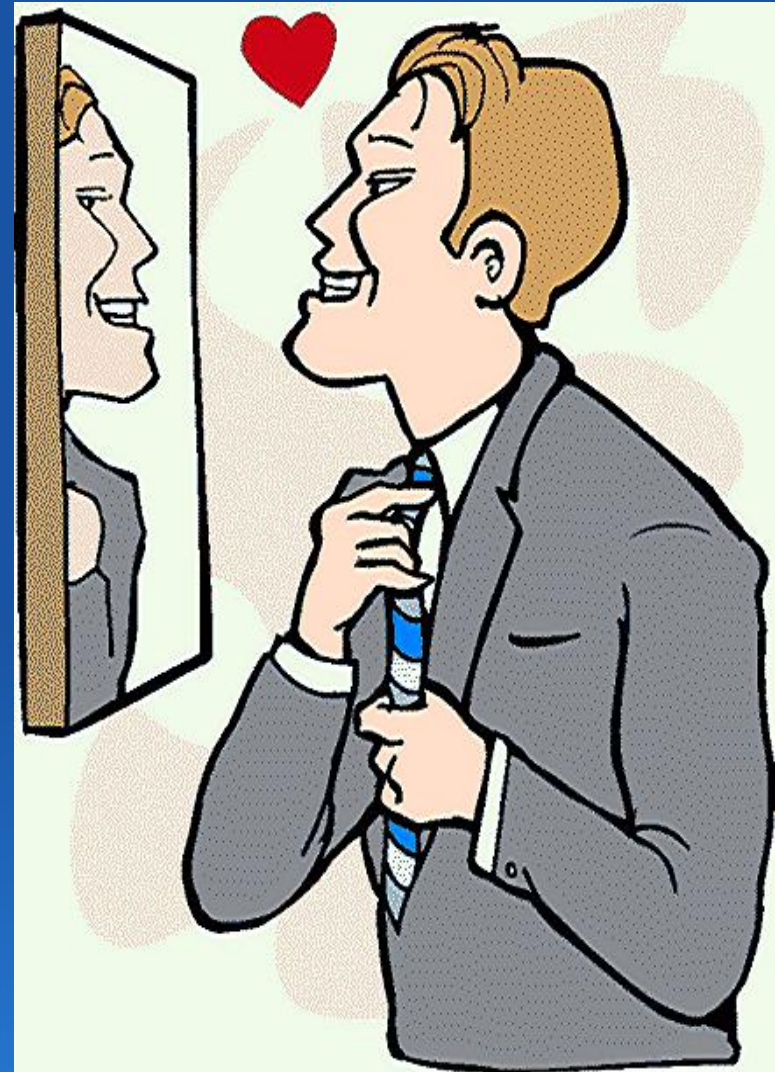
- Right side (outside looking in)
- Upper 1/3<sup>rd</sup>
- Top angled inward
- If we're going to use them, it is a better witness to Jews to do it according to Traditions





# DON'T FORGET THE LORD IN THE MIDST OF PROSPERITY!

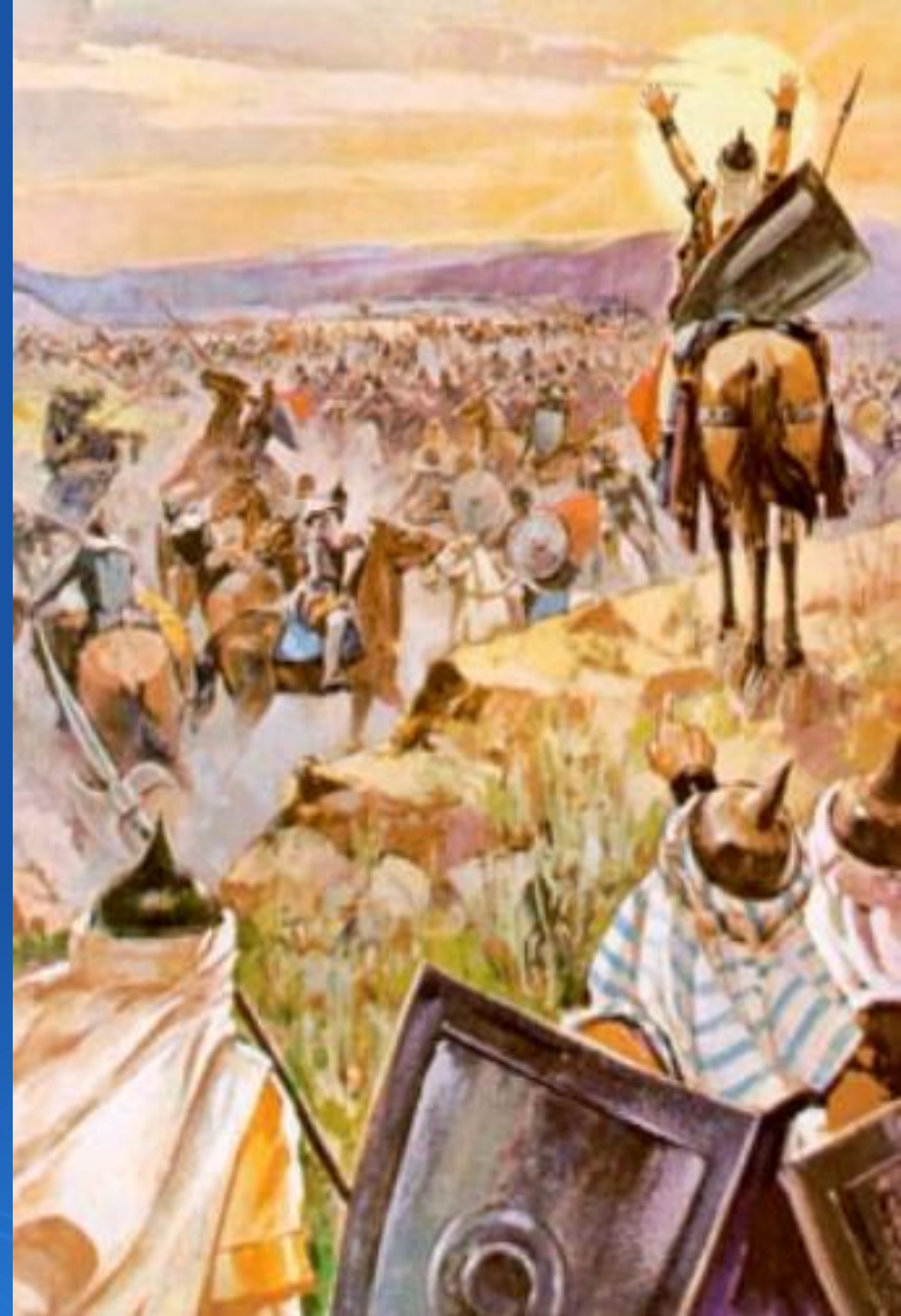
- It is man's tendency to look at ourselves instead of God when we are prosperous
- The seeking for, and attainment of, wealth is what causes most people to go astray
- This is NOT glorifying poverty!
- Hebrews are told that what they are about to receive in the Promised Land THEY did not build, nor did they earn it
- What we build on our own efforts will burn; what the Lords builds will survive forever





# NO PASSIVITY!

- We must fight the good battle
- The lives of all Israelites were put on the line even though the Lord had prepared the victory
- Characteristics of a God-led leader:
  - 1) Sacrificial
  - 2) Accountable
  - 3) Open to discipline
  - 4) Goals for the benefit of the group AND the Kingdom of God





# DO NOT FOLLOW AFTER OTHER PEOPLE'S GODS!



- Scripture defines IDOLATRY as anything placed ahead of God
- God's people are not to seek and follow what the world naturally seeks and follows
- We can NOT seek things of the world, add a religious element to it, and then pretend that this is not idolatry!



# WHY IS THE CHURCH DECLINING?

- Since 1965 church attendance in America began to dwindle
- Growth and prosperity became the #1 goal
- Church moved towards the WORLD rather than maintaining high standards
- 200 years ago, Europe 90% Christian. Today, less than 3%
- In America, since 1990, church attendance dropping at 1% per year
- We have been chasing after other gods!!

