

'Translation' of Shema 2nd Paragraph Updated For Our Generation

And if you listen, really listen to the commandments I grant you this day, to love and served Hashem your G*d and all G*d's creations, with all your heart and all your soul. Then Hashem will provide rain in its proper seasons, the former rain and the latter rain and you, and all G*d's creations will have food and be satisfied. But be careful, lest your heart be turned away and you worship other G*d's, G*d's of money and consumerism, fashion and sport at the expense of G*d's world. Then the wrath of Hashem will be turned against you, and global temperature will begin to rise. The climate will not behave like it used to, with freak floods and hurricanes displacing millions of people on national TV. Polar Bears will become extinct as ice caps melt, sea levels will rise, displacing billions of people in Asia. Areas which once grew food will become desert and unusable including large portions of Israel. And our species will find ourselves speedily evicted from this good land that G*d has given us.

Place these words upon your heart and bind them as a sign between your eyes. See G*d's wonder in all that surrounds you, and speak G*d's truths in all that you say. Teach them to your family in your home and on your way, when you go sleep and when you wake up. And if we follow these commandments then we can again live in harmony and the days of our children will be like the days of the heaven upon the earth.

By Noam Dolgin

Worksheet: Shema 2nd Paragraph and the Global Climate Crisis

Names of Group Members: _____

Part 1: Read the 2nd paragraph of the shema and answer the following questions:

- 1) What does G*d ask us to do? List 3 specific actions
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- 2) If we do what G*d asks, what is our reward? List 4 specific rewards
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- 3) What happens if we turn away, worship 'false G*d's'
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- 4) How are we supposed to remember these teachings
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- 5) If we do everything right, what do we get
 - 1.

Part 2: Read the alternative interpretation of Shema 2nd paragraph and using this translation, answer the following questions

- 6) What do you believe "to love and served Hashem and all G*d's creations, with all your heart and all your soul" means?
- 7) What can you do in your daily life to love and serve G*d and all Creation?
- 8) What do you believe is a modern "false G*d? Why is this a problem?
- 9) This interpretation draws a comparison between human activity affecting our climate, and G*d's warning if we don't follow the commandments. Do you think this is a fair comparison? Why or why not.

Worksheet: Shema 2nd Paragraph and the Global Climate Crisis

(teacher's version)

Names of Group Members: _____

Part 1: Read the 2nd paragraph of the shema and answer the following questions:

- 1) What does G*d ask us to do? List 3 specific actions
 1. Listen, really listen to the commandments
 2. Love G*d with all your all
 3. Serve G*d with all your soul

- 2) If we do what G*d asks, what is our reward? List 4 specific rewards
 1. Rain in the proper seasons
 2. Grain, Wine and Oil
 3. Grass for cows, so we can have milk and meat
 4. We will eat and be satisfied

- 3) What happens if we turn away, worship 'false G*ds'
 1. Close the heavens and no rain
 2. Earth will not yield it's produce
 3. We will be evicted from the land

- 4) How are we supposed to remember these teachings
 1. Place these words upon your heart and soul
 2. Bind upon your hands and between your eyes
 3. Teach them to your children
 4. Place upon gates and doorposts

- 5) If we do everything right, what do we get
 1. Long life for you and your children

Part 2: Read the alternative interpretation of Shema 2nd paragraph and using this translation, answer the following questions

- 6) What do you believe "To love and served Hashem and all G*d's creations, with all your heart and all your soul" means?

- 7) What can you do in your daily life to love and serve G*d and all Creation?

- 8) What do you believe is a modern "false G*d? Why is this a problem?

- 9) This interpretation draws a comparison between human activity affecting our climate, and G*d's warning if we don't follow the commandments. Do you think this is a fair comparison? Why or why not.