

וְאֵהָבֶתָּ

וְאֵהָבֶתָּ אֵת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ:

וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם עַל-לִבְבְּךָ:

וּשְׁנַנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךָ וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם בְּשַׁבְּתְךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ

וּבְלַכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ:

וּקְשַׁרְתָּם לְאוֹת עַל-יָדְךָ וְהָיוּ לְטָטְפֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ:

וּכְתַבְתָּם עַל-מְזוֹזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

לְמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹתַי וְהָיִיתֶם קְדוֹשִׁים לֵאלֹהֵיכֶם:

אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם

לְהָיוֹת לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ

Root: ד - ב - ר

Meaning - speak

Root: א - ה - ב

Meaning - love

Words in the prayer with the same root: וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ וְדַבַּרְתָּ הַדְּבָרִים

The וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ is found in the Shabbat morning service. It is the first of three paragraphs that immediately follow the שְׁמַע. The congregation chants it out loud. Following its recitation the congregation silently reads the other two paragraphs until the לְמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ. We then chant the לְמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ together.

In the Torah, the וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ is part of the שְׁמַע. It is one of the only two prayers that the Torah commands us to recite, once in the morning and once at night. This is why we chant it in both the morning and evening services. Some Jews also chant the prayer at bedtime.

The וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ commands us to do many things. It speaks of loving God with all of your being. It commands us to make the words of the שְׁמַע part of who we are each and every day, to teach the words of the שְׁמַע to our children, to say the words when we rise up (in the morning) and when we lie down (in the evening). The prayer also commands us to wear tefillin. The prayer additionally commands us to put the words of the שְׁמַע and the וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ into a Mezuzah, and to place a Mezuzah on the doorposts of our homes.

Vocabulary

and when you walk - וּבְלֶכְתְּךָ	And you shall love - וְאַהֲבֵתָּ
I - אֲנִי	that/which - אֲשֶׁר
the words - הַדְּבָרִים	your heart - לְבַבְךָ
My commandments - מִצְוֹתַי	command you - מְצַוְךָ

Past Roots and Prefixes

choose ב-ה-ר	place, put ש-י-מ	bless ב-ר-כ
life, live ה-י-(י)	root for names of God and also the word “God” (ה)-ל-א	
and ו	to, for ל	great, large ג-ד-ל
give נ-ת-נ	on, in, with ב or ב	save, redeem ג-א-ל
hero, power ג-ב-ר	father א-ב	mother א-מ

Translation

And you shall love Adonai your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, and with all of your might.

And set these words that I command you this day upon your heart.

Teach them to your children. Speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on your way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Bind them as a sign on your hand, and let them be a symbol between your eyes.

Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Therefore, remember and do all of my commandments, so that you will be holy to your God.

I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God,

I am Adonai your God.