

Deuteronomy 3:22–7:11

Va'Etchanan | ואתחנן

“I pleaded”

Va'Etchanan is an exceptionally rich portion. Not only does it contain the words of the *Shema* (6:4-9) but the reprise of the Ten Commandments (5:6-18). It also includes the continuance of Moses' exhortation to Israel, with special emphasis on God's goodness and on Israel's uniquely intimate relationship with this good and great God. Topping it off, we find three distinct sets of bookends, so to speak, that tell us to listen, observe, keep, or follow the decrees, ordinances and commandments (*chukim*, *mishpatim*, and *mitzvot*).

Additional Resources:

BT:
2021

Rabbi
Jonathan
Sacks

Aleph-
Beta

Bible
Project



Community Questions:

1. What does "*va'etcahanan*" translate to in English?
2. What are the dominant meanings of the word "*shema*"?
3. Where do we see the *Shema* in the book of Mark? What do we traditionally call it there?

4. Read Psalm 119. Where do you see a succinct reference to the *chukim*, *mishpatim*, and *mitzvot*?
5. Moses didn't get to follow Joshua into the Land, but he did get to follow the next "Joshua" (Yeshua) in. Where do we find that in the Gospels?
6. How does Yeshua's sermon on the mountain correspond to God's speech from Mount Sinai?

7. How is it that *hearing* something requires a measure of faith that *seeing* something would not?
8. Reviewing the teaching from 2021, why are two letters of the *Shema* written oversized?
9. How often do you expect to be heard—by God or others—before you, yourself, stop to listen?

10. What are some ways you could exercise your listening?
11. What's stopping you from reciting the *Shema*--the Greatest Command--twice a day?