

Texts for Scriptural Reasoning Identity

The Scriptural Reasoning Society

Identity: What does it mean to be a Jew?

ד שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה | אֶחָד:
(בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלֻכוֹתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד):
ה וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדֶךָ: ו וְהָיוּ
הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם עַל-לִבְבְּךָ: ז וְשָׁנַנְתָּם לְבְנֶיךָ
וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם בְּשֹׁבְתֶךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְיֹלְכֶתְךָ בַּדֶּרֶךְ וּבְשֹׁכְבְּךָ וּבְקוּמֶךָ:
ח וְקִשְׁרָתָם לְאוֹת עַל-יָדֶיךָ וְהָיוּ לְטֹטְפֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ: ט וְכָתַבְתָּם עַל-מְזוֹזוֹת
בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

⁴ Hear O Israel, the Eternal is our God, the Eternal is One.

(Blessed is the knowledge of God's glorious rule forever and ever.)

⁵ Love the Eternal your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your might. ⁶ These words that I command you today shall be upon your heart. ⁷ Repeat them to your children, and talk about them when you sit in your home, and when you walk in the street; when you lie down and when you rise up. ⁸ Secure them as a sign upon your hand, and let be as reminders before your eyes. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your home and at your gates.

The Sh'ma' – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

כֹּה וַיּוֹתֵר יַעֲקֹב לְבָדּוֹ וַיֹּאבֶק אִישׁ עִמּוֹ עַד עֲלוֹת הַשָּׁחַר: כו וַיֵּרָא כִּי לֹא
יָכֹל לוֹ וַיִּגַע בְּכַף-יָרְכוֹ וַתִּקַּע כַּף-יָרֵךְ יַעֲקֹב בְּהֶאֱבָקוֹ עִמּוֹ: כז וַיֹּאמֶר
שְׁלַחֲנִי כִּי עָלָה הַשָּׁחַר וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁלְּחֶךָ כִּי אִם-בְּרַכְתָּנִי: כח וַיֹּאמֶר
אֵלָיו מִה-שְּׁמֶךָ וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב: כט וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יַעֲקֹב יֹאמַר עוֹד שְׁמֶךָ כִּי
אִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי-שָׁרִיתָ עִם-אֱלֹהִים וְעִם-אֲנָשִׁים וַתּוֹכַל:

²⁵ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁶ When [the man] saw that he did not prevail against [Jacob], he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁷ Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But [Jacob] said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' ²⁸ So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' ²⁹ Then he said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel (*yisra'el*), for you have wrestled (*sarita*) with God and with humans, and have prevailed.'

Genesis 32:25-29 (24-28 in Christian bibles)

וַתֵּהָר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתֹּאמֶר הַפֶּעַם אוֹדָה אֶת-יְהוָה עַל-כֵּן קָרָאתָ שְׁמוֹ
יְהוּדָה וַתַּעֲמֹד מִלֵּדָת:

³⁵ Then she [Leah] conceived again and gave birth to a son. She said: 'Now I will praise/thank (*odeh*) the Eternal!' Therefore, she called his name Judah (*yehudah*), and stopped bearing children.

Genesis 29:35

איש יהודי היה בשושן, וכי לא היה יהודי אחר בשושן אלא שהיה
מזרע יהודה מאמו והיה עוסק בתורה כל ימיו ולא נטמא פיו בכל
מאכל טמא ולפיכך נקרא יהודה:

'THERE WAS A MAN, A JEW IN SHUSHAN' (Esther 2:5). Is it possible there wasn't another Jew in Shushan? [Surely not,] but [the point is] that he was a descendant of Judah through his mother, that he was engaged with the Torah all his days and that he never defiled his mouth with any unclean food. Therefore he was called a Jew.

Otzar HaMidrashim, Esther §4

Galatians 3.26-28

for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for **all of you are one in Christ Jesus**.

Romans 6.1-11

Dying and Rising with Christ

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. **For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Matthew 28.19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. **Do this in remembrance of me.**' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. **Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**' **For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Acts 2.43-47

Life among the Believers

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed **were together and had all things in common**; they would **sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need**. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, **they broke bread at home** and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **praising God** and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Philippians 2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

**And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.**

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
**so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**
and every tongue should confess
that **Jesus Christ is Lord,**
to the glory of God the Father.