

What is a Mezuzah?

Updated by: Yahwchanan Rueda

Unconventional words/phrases were chosen in obedience to: Shemot/Ex. 23:13; Yahwshua/Josh. 23:6-7; and Tehillim/Ps. 16:4

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The verses inscribed on the parchment scroll inside the Mezuzah explain its origin and purpose.

Debarim/Deut. 6:4-9 instructs in the RSTNE:

Shema/Hear, O Yisrael: YAHWAH is our Elohim, YAHWAH is Echad/One: And you shall love YAHWAH Your Elohim with all your leb/heart, and with all your nefesh/being, and with all your might. And these words, which I command you this yom/day, shall be in your leb/heart: And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your beit/house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall bind them for a sign upon your yad/hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes [origin of **tefillin**/phylacteries]. And you shall write them upon the **doorposts** of your beit/house, and on your **gates**.

Debarim/Deut. 11:13-21 also gives a similar message:

And it shall come to pass, if you shall listen diligently to My mitzwot/commandments which I command you this yom/day, to love YAHWAH Your Elohim, and to serve Him with all your leb/heart and with all your nefesh/being, That I will give you the rain of your land in its due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your corn, and your wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your cattle, that you may eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your leb/heart be not deceived, and you turn aside, and serve other elohim/mighty beings (idols) and worship them; And then YAHWAH's wrath be lit against you, and He will shut up the shamayim/heavens, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not its fruit, and lest you perish quickly from off the tob/excellent land which YAHWAH gives you. Therefore shall you lay up My words in your leb/heart and in your nefesh/being, and bind them for a sign upon your yad/hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your beit/house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them upon the **doorposts** of your beit/house, and upon your **gates**: That your yamim/days may be multiplied, and the yamim/days of your children, in the land which YAHWAH swore to your ahbot/ancestors/progenitors to give them, as the yamim/days of the shamayim/heavens upon the earth.

The passages in Debarim are YAHWAH's way of saying to Yisrael, "You shall not have magical amulets to guard you, but My Word will guard you."

Mezuzah traditions followed by Modern Orthodox Yahwdim (Jews)

* The Mezuzah text must contain 22 lines of writing.

* If even one letter of the text is missing, the Mezuzah may not be used.

* The Mezuzah is to be affixed to entrances of all inhabited buildings and to the doors of all rooms used for living purposes. **(It is not to be attached to the doorposts of bathrooms!)** Since the verses in Debarim not only declare "on your **doorposts**" but also "and your **gates**," Mezuzot are also obligatory for apartment house entrances.

* When the Mezuzah is affixed, the following blessing is recited: "**Baruk Atah, YAHWAH Eloheinu, Melek ha olam, Asher kideshanu be mitzwotaw we tziwanu leek'boa mezuzah.** Blessed are You, YAHWAH our Elohim, King of the universe, Who purifies us with Your commandments and commands us to fasten the Mezuzah."

* The Mezuzah is to be affixed at an angle to the top third of the doorpost on the right (as one enters), with the upper portion slanted inward and about a handbreadth from the outer edge of the doorpost.

* Shaddai (Almighty), one of the titles describing YAHWAH, is inscribed in the ancient / modern Hebrew letter SHIN (**W / ש**) or SHIN DALET YOD (**לַא / שְׁדֵי**) on the outer side of the top of the parchment. This word must show through the prescribed opening in the case so it can be read. This word is an acronym that means Shomer Daletot Yisrael or Protector/Guardian of the Doors of Yisrael.

When fellow Yisraelites enter/exit through the door, they usually touch the word Shaddai (שדי / שדאי) or the letter (W / ש) SHIN, kiss the fingers, and then say the following verses:

“Baruk atah be bo eka, ubaruk atah be tze’t eka. Be Shem YAHWSHUA ha Mashiach. Blessed are you when you come in, and blessed are you when you go out. In the Name of YAHWSHUA the Messiah.” -Debarim/Deut. 28:6

“YAHWAH yishmar-tzet’ka ubo eka mey-atah we ad-olam. Be Shem YAHWSHUA ha Mashiach. YAHWAH will guard (keep/protect) your going out and your coming in from now, and even to for ever. In the Name of YAHWSHUA the Messiah.” -Tehillim/Ps. 121:8

שמע ישראל אל יהוה אלהינו יהוה אחד ואהבת את
יהוה אלהיך בכל לבבך ובכל תפושך ובכחך מאדך והיו
הדברים האלה אשר אנכי מצוין היום על לבבך ושבתם
לבתיך ודברת בם בשבתך ובביתך ובכנתך בדרך
ובשכרך ובקומך וקשרתם לאות על ידך והיו לשפת
ביתך וכתבתם על מזוזות ביתך ובשעריך
והיה אם שמעו תשמעו אל מצותי אשר אנכי
מצוה אתכם היום לאהבה את יהוה אלהיכם ולקבדו
בכל לבבכם ובכל תפושכם ונתתו משר ארצכם בעתו
יורה ומלקוש ואספת דגלך ותירשך ויטהר ונתת
עשב בשדך לבהמתך ואכלת ושבעת השמרו לכם
פן יפתה לבבכם וסרתם ועבדתם אלהים אחרים
והשתחוויתם להם וזרה אף יהוה בכם ועצור את
השמים ולא יהיה מטר והאדמה לא תתן את יבוליה
ואבדתם מהרה מעל הארץ השבת אשר יהוה נתן לכם
ושמרתם את דברי אלה על לבבכם ועל תפושכם וקשרתם
אתם לאות על ידכם והיו לשפת ביתך על ימיכם ולמדתם
אתם את בניכם לדבר בם בשבתך ובביתך ובכנתך
ובשעריך למען ירבו ימיכם וימי בניכם על האדמה
אשר תשב על יהוה לאבתים לתת להם כימי השמים
על הארץ

www.restorethetruthofyhwh.org

Todah to this website: www.jfionline.org/pub/newsletters/5754-03/mezuzah.htm for help with this article!
Picture taken from: www.tiferes.com/single.asp?ItemCode=MZ-3495