

## Reciting the Shema Prayer Affirming G-d's Unity

### Deuteronomy 6:4

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our G-d; the Lord is one.

### Maimonides: Positive Commandment #10

The 10th *mitzvah* is that we are commanded to recite the *Shema* daily, both in the evening and in the morning.

The source of this commandment is G-d's statement (exalted be He), "And you shall speak of them when you sit in your house [and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise.]" The details of this *mitzvah* have been explained in the tractate *Berachos*. There it is explained that reciting *Shema* is a Biblical requirement.

The *Tosefta* explains [regarding the *mitzvah* of prayer]: "Just as the Torah established the time for reciting *Shema*, so our Sages established a time for prayer." The meaning of this statement is as follows: Although prayer itself is ordained by the Torah, as explained above, the set times for prayer are not. The Sages established the times for prayer. This is also the meaning of the statement, "The prayers were established to correspond to the *tamid* sacrifices." This means that the Sages established the times of prayer to correspond to the times of the sacrifices.