

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

--Deut. 4:6,9



IT'S A MEZUZAH!

Perhaps you've seen one on the doorframe of a Jewish friend or neighbor's house. The word Mezuzah is Hebrew and means, lit., "doorpost".



Jewish people have hung mezuzahs on the doorframes of their homes for centuries, even prior to Jesus' time. Why? Some people think mezuzahs are good-luck charms. Others believe they represent the lambs blood the Hebrews placed on the doorposts of their homes while enslaved in Egypt (Exodus 12). Well, neither is true. A "mezuzah" is simply a case containing a small scroll. Written on this scroll (usually in Hebrew) is a portion of scripture, Deut. 6:4-9, commonly known as the Shema ("Hear" from the first word of the passage) and its companion passage, Deut. 11:13-21. In these passages God commands His people to keep His Word constantly in their minds and in their hearts, by, among other things, writing them on the doorposts of their homes.

Christian Application

As Christians, we have certain "liberties." Because Jesus fulfilled all the requirements demanded by God's Law by His sacrificial death on the cross, we are no longer bound to the 'letter' of the Law.

In other words, there is no favor to be earned from God by hanging a mezuzah. As redeemed sinners bought by the precious blood of Christ, we can now hang the mezuzah freely to serve as a beautiful reminder of God's constant presence, His Love and His faithfulness. And this, incidentally, was God's intent all along.

The Scroll

The scroll in your mezuzah contains the traditional passages from Deuteronomy as well as the Hebrew translation of the "Shema". In addition, I've included New Testament verses from the Gospel of John: 1:1-2, 14; 3:16-17 to reinforce the beautiful truth that God in Jesus came to earth as the WORD made flesh in order to fulfill the demands of God's Law thus securing eternal life to all who will believe.

Hanging the mezuzah

Treat your mezuzah as you would a cross or crucifix. Hang it on the wall in your entry way or above the kitchen stove. Or, perhaps even on "the doorpost of your house." [The traditional method of doing this is discribed on the following page]

Wherever you hang your mezuzah, let it be a place where it will be seen often by all who enter your home, to serve as a reminder to "...lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul..."; that it may be a blessing to you knowing that God is always faithful, always merciful, and always present.

One final prayer is this, that your mezuzah will also remind you to pray for your Jewish friends and co-workers so that they may come to know Jesus (Y'Shua) as their one true Messiah.

In His Name,

Eric Bentley



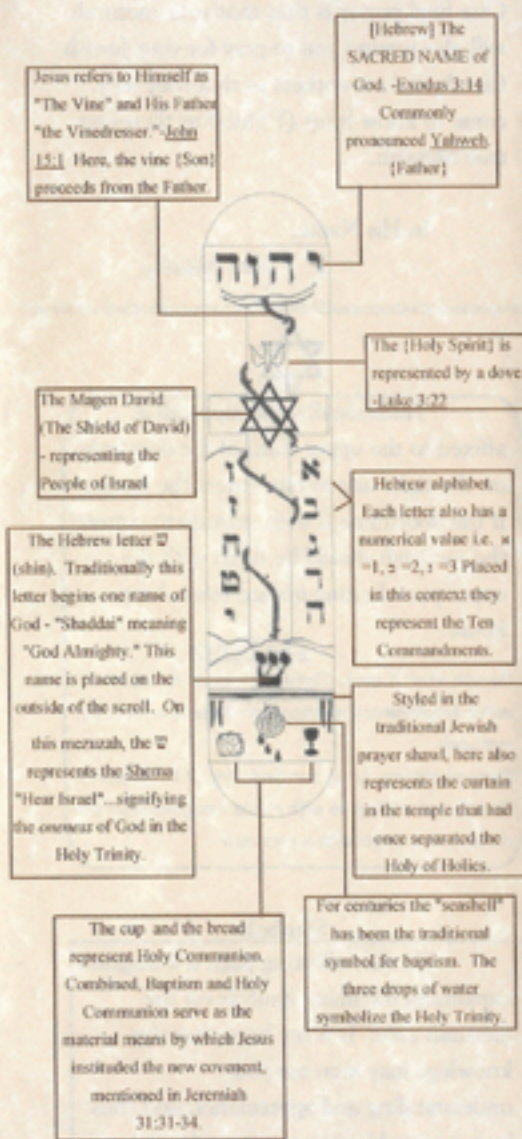
Traditionally, the mezuzah is affixed to the upper third of the doorframe on the right side as one enters the house. If the doorframe is wide enough to permit, the mezuzah should be tilted with the upper part slanting inward toward the house.

The Prayer

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohaynu, melekh ha-olam asher koodishanu b'mitzvotav v'tzeivanu lek'boa mezuzah
Blessed are you, Lord, our God, king of the universe who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to affix a mezuzah

Symbols

On the following page is a diagram explaining the many symbols on the mezuzah case. It is my hope that this knowlege may increase your understanding and appreciation and thus be a greater blessing to you and yours.



Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah...I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. - Jeremiah 31:31-34

