

# Engraving the Commandments

By Sha'ul bayn Yahukhenun ha Yahudah

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The Way of the Most High

“Exalting belief in our Father, the Most High  $\text{YHUAH}$  (YaHUAH), through His Turah, the 5 scrolls of M'shih (Moses).”

Website - <http://www.thewayofthemosthigh.ca>

Email – [followyah@gmail.com](mailto:followyah@gmail.com)

## MEZAZOOT: THE DOORPOSTS

**"<sup>6</sup>And these words, which even I have commanded you this day, will come to exist upon your heart. ... <sup>9</sup>And you will engrave them upon the doorposts - mezazoot - of your house, and upon your gates"** (D'bayrim (Deut.) 6:6,9).

As we proceed to give you what you need, we begin with the doorpost of our homes and hearts. This is known in Aibreet (Hebrew) as the "mouth" (paytakh) or "entrance" of the Tent. Some people have the concept that the commandments were only to be written on the heart. They think that all you have to do is love. Their primary focus is on a horrible understanding of the 10 commandments and they are very selective of what is still relevant in the Turah (Law). But in order for us to have the words which **אֲנִי** (YaHUAH) commanded us written upon our hearts, they must be read from the Turah (Law). These words must then be understood by the Spirit of the Most High. ONLY THEN can they be written on our hearts. Once the commands have been written on our hearts, we have accomplished only half of the text in D'bayrim (Deut.) 6:6-9. Fulfillment of the other half of this Scriptural command would be to literally engrave the words of His commands upon the doorposts of our homes. But the question becomes "How do we know that this is literal?"

We are very visual people. We live in a world filled with imagery. The Passover story of Sh'moot (Exodus) has some vivid images of its own to present. The people during the original account of Passover put the **blood of a lamb over the doorposts or "mezazoot"** of their houses. The "mezazah" (doorpost) is **the same place where they were later commanded to engrave the commandments** of the Most High! Take a look and compare the following two texts for yourself.

1. "Your lamb . . . you will guard until the fourteenth day of the same month (1<sup>st</sup> moon cycle of the year); and the whole assembly of the congregation will slaughter between the evenings. And they will take from the blood and place it over the two mezazoot (doorposts), and over the lintel (upper doorpost) of the house" (Sh'moot (Ex.) 12:5-7).

2. "And these words, which I command you this day, will be upon your heart, ... and you will **engrave** (katawbtam) them upon your **doorposts** (mezazoot) of your house and on your gates" (D'bayrim (Deut.) 6:6,9).

The words (d'bayrim) which the Almighty commanded should not only be upon our hearts, but engraved over the doorposts of our homes. By having His words engraved upon our doorposts, we show that His words are engraved upon our hearts. **We will read them in our going out and coming in from our homes, as commanded in D'bayrim (Deut.) 6:7.** Mind you, it is sad that there ARE people who have the commandments on the doorposts of their homes but their lives are full of transgressions and rebellion. But this does not change Scripture. The fact that there are hypocrites out there does not mean we should ignore the commands of **אֲנִי** (YaHUAH). Pray to the Most High to help you have His words written upon your hearts and engraved upon your home. Now let us peruse some practical advice on how to do both.

To have the words of our Maker written upon our hearts, it is obvious that we must read His Turah (Scripture). We encourage you to read at least a couple of chapters of Scripture per week. And for this, you need to dedicate yourself. Make a list. Write down

what chapters you have read as you complete each reading. Or make sure that you keep track of your bookmark. Before you know it, you will remember and understand a lot more about Scripture. The problem with most people today is that they profess with their lips that they believe in the Most High and follow His words, but their heart is still in a state of rebellion or laziness.

When you are ready to engrave the commandments on your doorposts you have several options. One would be to take a marker or some kind of engraving tool and literally write the text of Scripture (D'bayrim (Deut.) 6:4-9; Sh'moot (Ex.) 20:1-14 (verses 1-17 in Bibles)) on your doorposts. This would probably be the most obedient but labour-intensive way to follow the commandment of D'bayrim (Deut.) 6:9. The text of Scripture that we recommend you use for engraving would be the one which we have produced. It is available via our website "Mezazah Engraving Text" pdf. You may take that text to an engraver or someone who makes plaques and hang it upon the doorpost of your home. Then you can clearly read and attach it to the doorposts or lintel over the door of your home. Whatever you choose to do, we recommend that you make your engravings in such a way that you can take it with you if you ever move. Our family has often moved and we know what it means to be a stranger, traveler, sojourner or vagabond.

The last option would be to go to the store and buy a traditional "**Jewish mezuzah.**" This option would not be very Scriptural though. They write the words onto a scroll and **roll it up in a box never to be opened or read.** Then they nail it to the doorposts of their home, often at an angle in honour of their rabbis. How can anyone entering or exiting the home read those commands? They can't. Nor does this fit the commandment which states there should be a clear engraving upon the doorposts.

Recently I had some inspiration on something pretty cool in ancient Scripture regarding the doorposts of the home related to the commandments and the acceptance of a slave. **וַיִּצְוֶנּוּ** (YaHUAH) gave a very specific law, stating that when a slave decides he does not want to leave your household and rulership, and desires to stay, then you are to bring him to the door of your home, mark his ear through with an awl and place an earring upon him (D'bayrim (Deut.) 15:16-17). But why? The ear is how we hear. What do we hear? We hear the commandments. Where are the commandments? **ON YOUR DOORPOST** (D'bayrim (Deut.) 6:9). How are the commandments given? Impressing them **SHARPLY** like an awl in one's ear. This is related to D'bayrim (Deut.) 6:7, where we are told to "sh'noon" or "strike/impress sharply" the words of YaH upon our children. Of course, this is the same text in which we were told to engrave the commandments on our doorposts. So the very place where YaH told us to engrave the commandments on our doorpost, is the same place where a **slave accepts the reign of his ruler and the commandments of YaH.**

We do need to clarify that they would not literally be placing an awl through the ear into the doorpost and causing blood on their doorpost, ruining the inscription of commandments there. This was a complaint we received from one Karaite. The actual phrase in D'bayrim (Deut.) 15:17 is "wa'b'dalat" which in English is "and in the door/doorway." Thus, the slave is brought to the doorway of the home, pierced with an awl and given an earring. The import of the significance is still the same as given above, in that this is the entrance of the home and place of the commandments.