

# THE SHEMA

If you are praying without a minyan, begin with the following three words:

אֵל מֶלֶךְ נֶאֱמָן .

EL Me'-lech ne-e-man'.  
G-d king trustworthy, steadfast, faithful, reliable

Recite aloud, with your right hand covering your eyes.

שִׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל , יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ , יי אֶחָד .

She-ma' Yis-ra-el', Adonai E-lo-hei'-nu , Adonai E-chad'.  
Hear Israel Adonai G-d our Adonai (is) One .  
☆Hear and listen, Israel, Adonai is our G-d, Adonai is One.☆

Recite very quietly:

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֵד .

Ba-ruch' shem ke-vod' Mal-chu-to' le-o-lam' va-ed'.  
blessed (is) name of glorious Kingship His to eternity/universe and forever.

☆Blessed is the name of His glorious Kingship to eternity and throughout the universe forever. ☆

Continue in a soft voice::

וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת יי אֱלֹהֶיךָ , בְּכֹל לְבָבְךָ ,

Ve-a-hav'-ta et Adonai E-lo-hei'-cha , be-chol' le-vav-cha' ,  
and you will love (d.o.) Adonai G-d your with all heart your

וּבְכֹל נַפְשְׁךָ , וּבְכֹל מְאֹדְךָ , וְהָיוּ

u-ve-chol' naf-she-cha' , u-ve-chol' me-o-de'-cha , ve-ha-yu'  
and with all soul your and with all strength your and will be

הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה , אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם ,

ha-de-va-rim' ha-e'-leh, a-she'r' A-no-chi' me-tza-ve-cha' ha-yom',  
the words (the) these , which I command you today

עַל לְבַבְךָ . וְשִׁנַּנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךָ ,

al le-va-ve'-cha. Ve-shi-nan-tam' le-va-ne'-cha ,  
upon heart your and you will teach diligently them to children your

וּדְבַרְתָּ בָּם , בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְלַכְתְּךָ

ve-di-bar'-ta bam , be-shiv-te-cha' be-vei-te'-cha uv-lech-te-cha'  
and you will speak them in sitting your in house your and in walking your

בְּדַרְךָ , וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ . וְקִשְׂרַתָּם

va-de'-rech, uv-shoch-be-cha' uv-ku-me'-cha. U-ke-shar-tam'  
in the way and in lying down your and in rising your. and you will bind them

לְאוֹת עַל יָדְךָ , וְהָיוּ לְטֹטְפוֹת

le-ot' al ya-de'-cha , ve-ha-yu' le-to-ta-fot'  
for a sign upon hand your and they will be for frontlets

בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ . וְכָתַבְתֶּם עַל

bein ei-nei'-cha . U-che-tav-tam' al  
between eyes your and write them upon

מִזְזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ .

me-zu-zot' bei-te'-cha u-vi-she-a-rei'-cha .  
doorposts of house your and on gates your



וְהָיָה , אִם שָׁמַעַ תִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶל מִצְוֹתַי ,

Ve-ha-yah', im sha-mo'-a tish-me-u' el mitz-vo-tai',  
and it will be , if listen\* you will listen\* to commandments My

\*listen repeated for emphasis, the "absolute infinitive" before the verb, see Note 25.

אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מִצְוֶה אֶתְכֶם הַיּוֹם ,

a-she'r A-no-chi' me-tza-veh' et-chem' ha-yom',  
which I command (d.o.) you (pl.) today

לְאַהֲבָה אֶת יי אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וּלְעַבְדוֹ ,

le-a-ha-vah' et Adonai E-lo-hei-chem' u-le-av-do',  
to love (d.o.) Adonai G-d your and to serve/worship Him

בְּכֹל לְבַבְכֶם וּבְכֹל נַפְשְׁכֶם :

be-chol' le-vav-chem' u-ve-chol' naf-she-chem' :  
with all heart your and with all soul your (plural)

וְנָתַתִּי מִטֶּר אֶרְצְכֶם בְּעֵתוֹ ,

ve-na-ta'-ti      me-tar'      ar-tze-chem'      be-i-to',  
then I will give      rain of      land your      in season its (m.)

יֹרֵה וּמִלְקוֹשׁ , וְאִסְפֹּתָ דְגָנְךָ

yo-reh'      u-mal-kosh',      ve-a-saf'-ta      de-ga-ne'-cha  
early rain\*      and late rain\*      and you will harvest      grain/corn your

\*roots: y-r-h = to throw; l-k-sh = to be late

וְתִירְשֶׁךָ וַיִּצְהַרְךָ . וְנָתַתִּי עֵשֶׂב

ve-ti-ro-she-cha'      ve-yitz-ha-re'-cha\*\*.      Ve-na-ta'-ti      e'-sev  
and new wine your      and new oil your .      and I will give      grass

\*\*t-r-sh is the root for new wine, comes from "ho-rish" to drive out, i.e. the juice just "driven out" of the grapes; tz-h-r is the root for new oil, comes from "tz-h-r" to be bright, be clear

בְּשָׂדְךָ לְבֵהֶמְתֶּךָ , וְאָכַלְתָּ

be-sa-de-cha'      li-ve-hem-te'-cha ,      ve-a-chal'-ta  
in field your      for cattle/animals your      and you will eat

וְשָׂבַעְתָּ . הַשְּׂמֵרוֹ לָכֶם , פֶּן

ve-sa-va'-e-ta.      Hi-sham-ru'      la-chem',      pen  
and you will be satisfied.      guard yourselves      for yourselves      in order not to,  
lest

יִפְתָּה לְבַבְכֶם , וְסַרְתֶּם וְעַבַּדְתֶּם

yif-teh' le-vav-chem', ve-sar-tem' va-a-va-de-tem'  
will find beautiful heart your, and you will turn aside and you will serve, worship

אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים . וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתֶם לָהֶם

e-lo-him' a-che-rim'. Ve-hish-ta-cha-vi-tem' la-hem'.  
gods other and you will bow down yourselves to them.

וְחָרָה אֵף יי בְּכֶם , וְעָצַר

Ve-cha-rah' af Adonai ba-chem', ve-a-tzar'  
and will burn anger of Adonai with you, and will stop

אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם , וְלֹא יִהְיֶה מָטָר , וְהָאֲדָמָה

et ha-sha-ma'-yim, ve-lo' yi-he-yeh' ma-tar', ve-ha-a-da-mah'  
(d.o.) the heavens, and not will be rain and the earth

לֹא תִתֵּן אֶת יְבוּלָהּ , וְאֲבַדְתֶּם מְהֵרָה

lo ti-ten' et ye-vu-lah', ve-a-va-de-tem' me-he-rah'  
not will give (d.o.) produce\* its (f.) and you will be lost quickly

\*y-v-l = to bear, to carry; sense of that which is carried in from the fields

מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ הַטֹּבָה אֲשֶׁר יי נָתַן לָכֶם .

me-al' ha-a'-retz ha-to-vah' a-sheh' Adonai no-ten' la-chem'.  
from upon the land the good which Adonai gives to you

וּשְׂמַתֶּם אֶת דְּבַרֵי אֱלֹהִים , עַל לְבַבְכֶם

Ve-sam-tem' et de-va-rai' e'-leh , al le-vav-chem'  
and you will place (d.o.) words My these upon heart your (plural)

וְעַל נַפְשֵׁיכֶם , וּקְשַׁרְתֶּם אֹתָם לְאוֹת

ve-al' naf-she-chem' , u-ke-shar-tem' o-tam' le-ot'  
and upon soul your and you will bind them for a sign

עַל יְדֹכֶם , וְהָיוּ לְטוֹטְפוֹת בֵּין עֵינֵיכֶם .

al yed-chem' , ve-ha-yu' le-to-ta-fot' bein ei-nei-chem'.  
upon hand your and they will be for frontlets between eyes your

וּלְמַדְתֶּם אֹתָם אֶת בְּנֵיכֶם , לְדַבֵּר בָּם ,

Ve-li-ma-de-tem' o-tam' et be-nei-chem' , le-da-ber' bam,  
and you will teach them (d.o.) children your to speak of them

בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ , וּבְלִכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ ,

be-shiv-te-cha' be-vei-te'-cha , uv-lech-te-cha' va-de'-rech,  
in sitting your in house your and in walking your in the way

וּבְשׁוֹכְבְּךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ .

uv-shoch-be-cha' uv-ku-me'-cha .  
and in lying down your and in rising up your

וְכָתַבְתֶּם עַל מְזוֹזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ ,

U-che-tav-tam' al me-zu-zot' bei-te'-cha ,  
and you will write them upon doorposts of house your

וּבְשַׁעֲרֵיךָ . לְמַעַן יִרְבוּ יְמֵיכֶם

u-vi-she-a-rei'-cha. Le-ma'-an yir-bu' ye-mei-chem'  
and upon gates your . In order that will increase days your

וַיְמֵי בְנֵיכֶם , עַל הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע

vi-ymei' ve-nei-chem', al ha-a-da-mah' a-sheer' nish-ba'  
and days of children your upon the earth which has sworn

יִי לְאֲבֹתֵיכֶם לְתֵת לָהֶם

Adonai la-a-vo-tei-chem' la-tet' la-hem'  
Adonai to fathers your to give to them

כִּימֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם עַל הָאָרֶץ .

ki-ymei' ha-sha-ma'-yim al ha-a'-retz.  
as days of the heavens upon the earth  
(as the days of heavens)



וַיֹּאמֶר יִי אֵל מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר , דַּבֵּר אֵל

Va-yo'-mer Adonai el Mo-sheh' le-mor', da-ber' el  
and spoke Adonai to Moses to say speak (imp.) to

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל , וְעָשׂוּ לָהֶם צִיצִית ,

be-nei' Yis-ra-el' , ve-a-su' la-hem' tzi-tzit' ,  
sons of Israel and they will make for them(selves) fringe

עַל כַּנְפֵי בְּגָדֵיהֶם לְדֹרֹתָם , וְנָתַנוּ

al kan-fei' vig-dei-hem' le-do-ro-tam' , ve-na-te-nu'  
on corners of clothes their for generations their and they will give

עַל צִיצִית הַכֶּנֶף פֶּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת .

al tzi-tzit' ha-ka-naf' pe-til' te-che'-let .  
upon fringe of the corner a thread of blue violet or turquoise (?)

(?) - the dye of the techelet is historically known to be from a sea mollusk, but recently thought to be scientifically rediscovered; if correct, it is more of a turquoise.

וְהָיָה לָכֶם לְצִיצִית וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ ,

Ve-ha-yah' la-chem' le-tzi-tzit' u-re-i-tem' o-to',  
and it will be to you for a fringe as you will see it (m.)(d.o.)

וּזְכַרְתֶּם אֵת כָּל מִצְוֹת יי' ,

u-ze-char-tem' et kol mitz-vot' Adonai ,  
and you will remember (d.o.) all commandments of Adonai

וְעָשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם , וְלֹא תִתְּוּרוּ אַחֲרָי לְבַבְכֶם

va-a-si-tem' o-tam' , ve-lo' ta-tu'-ru a-cha-rei' le-vav-chem'  
and you will do them and not you will explore after heart your

וְאַחֲרַי עֵינֵיכֶם , אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם זֹנִים

ve-a-cha-rei' ei-nei-chem', a-sher' a-tem' zo-nim'\*  
and after eyes your which you(pl.) go to false gods

z-n-h: root for zo-nim', which means to commit fornication, to be a harlot.

אֲחֲרֵיהֶם . לְמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶם

a-cha-rei-hem'. Le-ma'-an tiz-ke-ru' va-a-si-tem'  
after them in order that you will remember and you will do

אֵת כָּל מִצְוֹתַי , וְהֵייתֶם קְדָשִׁים לֵאלֹהֵיכֶם .

et kol mitz-vo-tai', vi-he-yi-tem' ke-do-shim' le-lo-hei-chem'.  
(d.o.) all commandments My, and you will be holy to G-d your

אֲנִי יי אֱלֹהֵיכֶם , אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם

A-ni' Adonai E-lo-hei-chem', a-sher' ho-tze'-ti et-chem'  
I (am) Adonai G-d your Who brought out you (pl., d.o.)

מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְהִיּוֹת לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים ,

me-e'-retz mitz-ra'-yim li-he-yot' la-chem' le-lo-him' ,  
from land of Egypt to be to you for G-d

אֲנִי יי אֱלֹהֵיכֶם . . . אֱמֶת

A-ni' Adonai E-lo-hei-chem'. E-met'...  
I (am) Adonai G-d your. truth...