

מְזוּזָה

Mezuzah, Lesson 2

Ever wonder what's inside the mezuzah on your door?

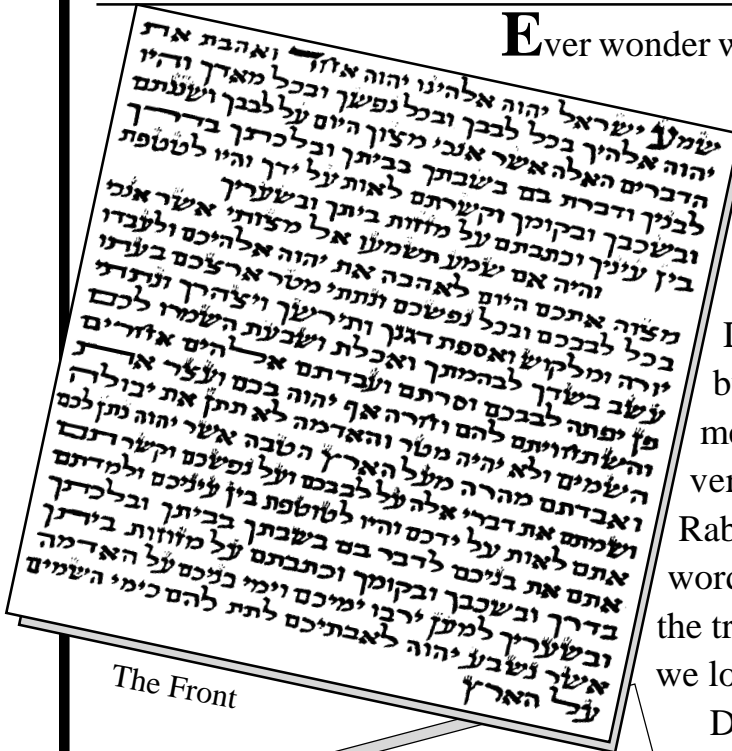
Well, here's a picture of the scroll that's inside, and it's written on both sides.

On one side are the words of the Torah which HaShem gave to Moshe and which he gave to Israel, found in Devarim 6:4-9 and 11:13-21 and known by its first word, שְׁמָע "Shema", which means "hear and obey." The words of these verses are very important to us. Yeshua Rabbinu (our Teacher) taught us that these words describe how we are to worship only the true G-d, and how we can show Him that we love Him (by obeying Him).

Did you notice that there are two big letters — the ע and the ד ? Together they form the Hebrew word עד which means "witness." It reminds us that the way we can be a witness to the world about the One true G-d is by living out the Shema.

On the back of the *klef* (קלף, "parchment") are written the word שְׁדַי, "Shaddai", one of G-d's names, and a line of Hebrew spelled כּוּזוּ במוכסז כּוּזוּ (it's upside down in the picture). This line is written in a hidden code.

At one time in our history, the government officials made it against the law for us to write the Name of HaShem. Since in our mezuzah the backside of the scroll often showed through, we learned to write the Name in code. Each Hebrew letter of the line יהוה אלהינו יהוה (the L-rd our G-d is L-rd) is written by substituting the letter which follows it in the aleph-bet, so instead of writing א we write ב, and so on.



The Front

