

Bible Studies on the Number ONE

# HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD IS ONE

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**Dedicated to all my children and grandchildren. May you grow in Christ.**

What do you think is special about the Number One?



Well, for one thing, it's the Beginning. That makes it special.



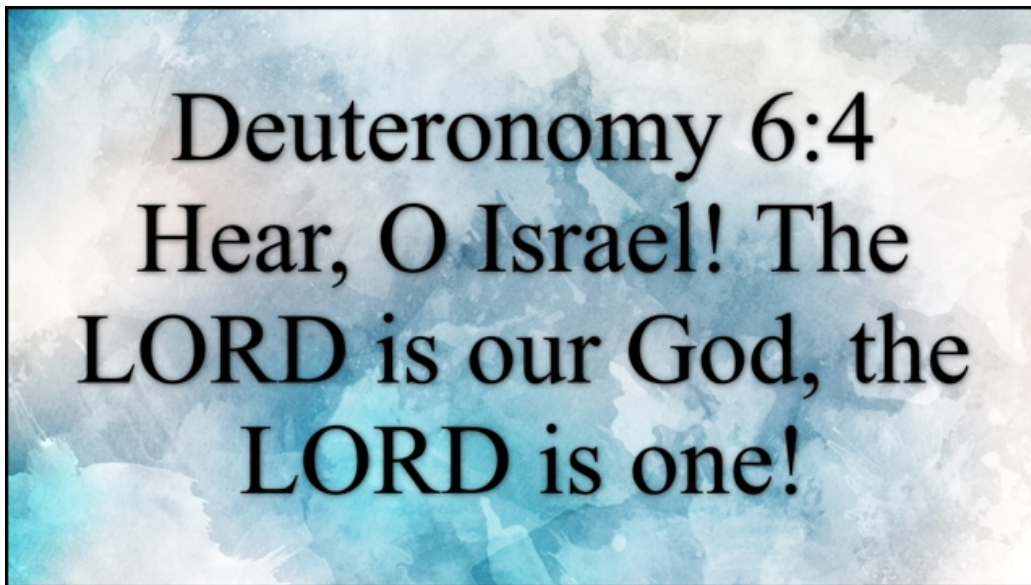
It's also special because it's *necessary*. Think of it... what if there were no #1's?

Then there wouldn't be 10, 100, 1000, and higher. There also wouldn't be a #2 because number two is  $1+1$ . Then that's means there wouldn't be a 3 because  $1+2=3$ .

$$1 + 1 = 2$$
$$2 + 2 = 4$$
The equations are written in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The numbers are colored: 1 is yellow, 2 is red, and 4 is blue. The plus and equals signs are black.

So if there was no #1, then there wouldn't be any numbers at all!!

So, the number one is very important. It's important to God as well. In the bible, a book called Deuteronomy says, "Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is ONE."



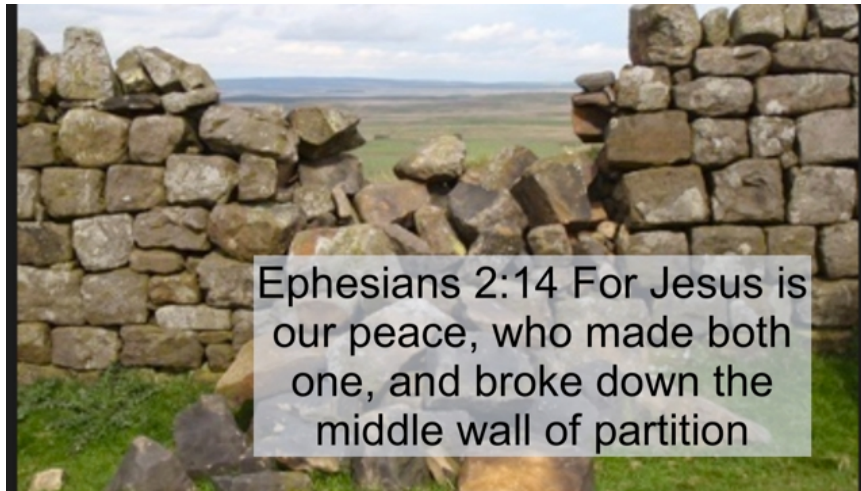
Who is Israel?

Israel means, "God prevails". That means "God Wins". In the Old Testament, Israel is a country in the middle east where there are Jewish people. But in the New Covenant, it's more than just a physical country.



Ephesians 2 tells us that Jesus broke down the dividing wall between Jewish people and non-Jewish people (gentiles),

and that now ANYONE can be spiritual Israel if they are allowing Jesus to WIN in their life by following him and listening to him instead of listening to their own self.



That's why it says, "HEAR, O Israel!" Israel is now a people who seek to hear God so they can follow him.



The verse in Deuteronomy also says, "the Lord is our God."

What is a "god"? Back in Bible times, 'gods' were often made of stone or wood. And there were many different ones. Some of the 'gods' in Egypt were called:

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**Ra, Isis, Anubis, and there were other 'gods' of the Romans and Greeks that you might have heard of called: Mars, Apollo, Jupiter, Zeus, and Hercules.**



**Do we have 'gods' today that people worship? Yes, we do. In our day, and our country, they're often called: Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Captain America, and many others. These are characters that men made up that seem to have super-human, 'godlike' powers and abilities.**



**Are any of these 'gods' real?  
Are they alive?  
Are any of them the true God?**

There have always been many 'gods' on earth that people worship, so it is important to remind ourselves and others that there is only ONE true God that *we Christians* worship and serve.

The LORD is ONE.  
The LORD is the ONE God.  
The LORD is the only ONE God that's *alive*.  
The only ONE God who loves us.



The only ONE God who *gives his life for us*.  
The only ONE God who *takes care of us*.  
The only ONE God *we can trust to be there for us*.

If we are spiritual Israel because we are allowing Jesus to WIN in our hearts by following him, then he is the only ONE God for us. He is the ONE true God, and none of those other 'gods' are worthy to be worshiped and loved.



It's always important for God to *be at the beginning* in our lives. **Number ONE.**

And just like there can be no numbers without the number one, without God being first in our hearts--we will also be empty, and lacking and sad.





**The End**