

BA22. Knowing that God is One – Both Singular & Composite

We are to know that God is one – both singular and composite.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Composite “One”

Mark 12:29 (composite “one”)

Yeshua answered, "The most important is, 'Sh'ma Yisra'el, ADONAI Eloheinu, ADONAI echad [Hear, O Isra'el, the LORD our God, the LORD is one],

John 17:3 (singular “one”)

And eternal life is this: to know you, the one true God, and him whom you sent, Yeshua the Messiah.

Singular “One”

Ephesians 4:5-6

And there is one Lord, one trust, one immersion, and one God, the Father of all, who rules over all, works through all and is in all.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Composite “One”

Matthew 1:23

John 1:1, 10:30, 14:10, 17:20-23, 20:28

1 Corinthians 8:6

2 Corinthians 13:14

Galatians 3:20

Colossians 1:16, 2:9

Singular “One”

Mark 12:32

John 1:14

Romans 3:30

1 Corinthians 8:4

1 Timothy 2:5

Related New Testament Mitzvot

BA43 Knowing that God is Triune

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Composite “One”

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves; and let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the animals, and over all the earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the earth."

Deuteronomy 6:4

Sh'ma, Yisra'el! ADONAI Eloheinu, ADONAI echad [Hear, Isra'el! ADONAI our God, ADONAI is one];

Singular “One”

Deuteronomy 4:35

This was shown to you, so that you would know that ADONAI is God, and there is no other beside him.

Deuteronomy 4:39

.. know today, and establish it in your heart, that ADONAI is God in heaven above and on earth below- there is no other.

Deuteronomy 32:39

See now that I, yes, I, am he; and there is no god beside me. I put to death, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal; no one saves anyone from my hand!

1 Chronicles 17:20

ADONAI, there is no one like you, and there is no God besides you- everything we have heard confirms that.

Nehemiah 9:6

You are ADONAI, you alone. You made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their array, the earth and all the things that are in it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve them all. The army of heaven worships you.

Psalms 86.10

For you are great, and you do wonders; you alone are God.

Isaiah 37:16

ADONAI-Tzva'ot, God of Isra'el, who dwells above the k'ruvim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms on earth. You made heaven and earth.)

Isaiah 43:10-11

"You are my witnesses," says ADONAI, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you can know and trust me and understand that I am he- no god was produced before me, nor will any be after me. I, yes I, am ADONAI; besides me there is no deliverer."

Isaiah 44:6

Thus says ADONAI, Isra'el's King and Redeemer, ADONAI-Tzva'ot: "I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no God.

Isaiah 45:5

I am ADONAI; there is no other; besides me there is no God. I am arming you, although you don't know me,

Isaiah 45:21

Let them stand and present their case! Indeed, let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, announced it in times gone by? Wasn't it I, ADONAI? There is no other God besides me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

Isaiah 46:9

Remember things that happened at the beginning, long ago- that I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

Joel 2:27

You will know that I am with Isra'el and that I am ADONAI your God, and that there is no other. Then my people will never again be shamed.

Zechariah 14:9

Then ADONAI will be king over the whole world. On that day ADONAI will be the only one, and his name will be the only name.

Comment

This *Mitzvah* #BA22 addresses the word “one” as it applies to God in English translations of the Bible. There are three ways that the word “one” is used in the English Bible: the way it is not relevant in this *Mitzvah* is when it is referring to a person or persons (e.g. “the other one” or “one must”). The two ways that are relevant in this *Mitzvah* are (a) the singular number “1” as in a count of objects (e.g. “one widget”) and (b) the corporate word “one” meaning a collective as in “we are one in our purpose” (a single purpose held by multiple persons) or “we are one band of men” (a single band consisting of multiple men).

Similar to English where the word “one” can be used for either a singular or composite unity, the Hebrew Bible uses the word “*echad*.” Its use of “*echad*” in Deuteronomy 6:4 (“*Adonai echad*,”) is translated “the Lord is one” and is meant as a composite unity. When the Hebrew Bible intends to say that there is only one God (a singular unity), it may still use the word “*echad*,” so translators try to make it clear by using terms such as “only one,” “no other,” “You alone,” etc.

The significance of the word “*echad*” as used in Deuteronomy 6:4 is that it allows for God to be triune (three in one) while still being one God and not three. See *Mitzvah* #BA43 herein for a discussion of God’s tri-unity.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

G03 Knowing that God Is Echad & Triune