

# CHAPTER 4: SHEMA YISROEL AND ITS BLESSINGS □ PARAGRAPH 12

*by Rabbi Yaakov Feldman*

The very last item we'll consider in the whole panorama of things associated with reciting "Shema Yisroel" will be the berachot ("blessings") we say with the nighttime reading of it.

As we said, all of creation is reactivated every day, and each day is given its own mission. Now, that's both confirmed and summed up in the heavens each night (much the way we might review the day we'd had each night to plan for the next day accordingly). The berachot said before and after the nighttime "Shema Yisroel" reflect that.

As such, we start off by praising G-d for changing day to night and for manifesting His presence then, too. Then we reaffirm G-d's love of us as well as our commitment to Him and His Torah, which we thank G-d for.

We then recite "Shema Yisroel", and end off by expressing gratitude to G-d once again for having redeemed us in the past (with an implied trust in the ultimate redemption) and by declaring that "G-d will reign forever!"

A fourth beracha was instituted later on as well in which we ask G-d for guidance, well-being, and surety; and some communities conclude with an additional beracha that reaffirms G-d's sovereignty and lauds Him for it.

May G-d grant us the wherewithal to recite "Shema Yisroel" in earnest and with true heartfelt conviction each and every day; and may we realize the truth of what it says as we say it.

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