

Order of a Synagogue Service

IN A SYNAGOGUE SERVICE:

1. First the “**Shema**” would be recited (this is **Deuteronomy 6:4**, which Jews would repeat several times daily). “Hear, O Israel! **The Lord is Our God. The Lord is one!**” (NASB)
2. Then **certain prayers** would be spoken.
3. Then a **reading from the Law** (Genesis through Deuteronomy).
4. Then a **reading from the Prophets** (intended to illustrate the law).
5. Then **a sermon**. The *synagogue rulers* would decide who was to lead the service and give the sermon. A different person would be chosen to lead each week.
6. Since it was customary for the synagogue leader to **invite visiting rabbis to speak**, Paul and Barnabas usually would have an open door when they went to a synagogue. But as soon as they spoke about Jesus as Messiah, the door would often slam shut. Usually they would not be invited back by the religious leaders, and sometimes they would be thrown out of town!



The invitation from the synagogue rulers was to speak *a message of encouragement*. What an open invitation for the gospel! There can be no more encouraging word than the fact that God has come to earth and opened a door to heaven, providing an atonement for sin and offering new life in Jesus Christ! Such an invitation was all Paul needed.