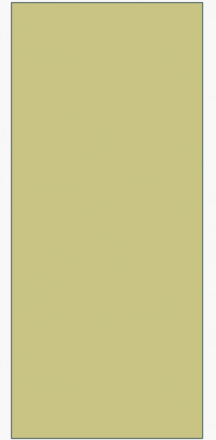


TO KNOW AND LOVE OUR KING

AN ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDY ON THE VERBS
“TO KNOW”, “TO LOVE”, AND “TO WORSHIP”



WHAT IS LOVE?

- Our understanding is formed by our culture (Hollywood, novels, etc.)
- Change the language, change the values
- In Hebrew culture, marriage comes first (commitment) and affection grows from that.

TWO TYPE OF LOVE

- Covenantal Love
 - Suzerain and vassal
 - Master and servant
 - Elohim and his worshippers
- Interpersonal Love
 - Husband and wife
 - Parents and children
 - Man and neighbor

CHESED

Translated as:

Mercy, kindness, loving-kindness, favor

Means:

YHWH's steadfast loyalty to covenant despite disloyalty on the vassal's part.

It does not refer to sentimental kindness nor suggest mercy apart from repentance.

TERMINOLOGY OF LOVE

To obey

To cling

To walk in His ways

To guard His commands

To guard His Laws

To guard His right rulings

WHAT IT MEANS TO WORSHIP

Worship is not limited to praise and cultic activity

Worship is:

- **A lifestyle**
- **How you live your life**
- **The basis for your morals**

ISRAEL'S OTHER LOVERS

“Other lovers” refers to suzerains other than Yahweh that Israel was conquered by and subsequently swore fealty towards.

BIBLICAL LOVE

- Love can be commanded (Deuteronomy 6:4)
- With a few exceptions, only a husband is said to love a wife or a parent to love a child.
- Just like covenants, love is central to the Bible.

DEFINING LOVE

Strongs: H157

אהב אהב

'aḥab 'aḥeb

aw-hab', aw-habe'

A primitive root; to *have affection* for (sexually or otherwise): - (be-) love (-d, -ly, -r), like, friend.

DEFINING LOVE

Brown-Driver Briggs: H157

- Human love for another, includes family and sexual.
- Human appetite for objects such as food, drink, sleep, wisdom
- Human love for or to God
- Act of being a friend (lover)
- God's love toward man

DEFINING LOVE

Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible

1094) 𐤀𐤏𐤃 (𐤀𐤏𐤃 HB) ac: Give co: Gift ab: Love: The pictograph 𐤏 represents one who is looking at a great sight with his hands raised as when saying behold. The 𐤀 is a representation of the tent or house. Combined these pictures mean "look toward the house" or "provide for the family". One does not choose the household which one is born into, including tribe, parents, children and wife (as marriages were often arranged by the father), it is a gift from God. These gifts are seen as a privilege and are to be cherished and protected. (eng: have - as given)

DEFINING LOVE

Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible

C) אָהַב (אָהַב AHB) ac: ? co: ? ab: **Love:** The expressions and actions toward the family, which one was privileged with.

L) אָהַב (אָהַב YHB) ac: **Give** co: **Gift** ab: ?: A giving of someone or something to one who is deserving or to be privileged.

N^m) אָהַב (אָהַב Y-HB) - **Burden:** A heavy gift that is difficult to bear. [freq. 1] |kjv: burden| {str: 3053}

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN TREATIES

- The Amarna letters of the 14th century BCE:
 - Pharaoh 'loved' his vassal and the vassal 'loved' Pharaoh.
- Vassal treaty of Esarhaddon:
 - "You shall love Assurbanipal...as yourselves"
- Defeated kings would swear to love the suzerain

DEFINING LOVE

According to Moran, love:

- Can be commanded and demanded
- Is intimately related to the concept of fear and reverence
- Is expressed in terms of loyalty, service, and unqualified obedience to the suzerain

COVENANT DEFINITION OF LOVE

Used in political and covenantal language, 'to love' (אהב) means:

To abide by one's covenantal oath, an act of absolute fealty to another

It is used to describe loyalty and friendship between political entities and their vassals.

EXAMPLES

- Exodus 21:2-6 (servant loves his master)
- 1 Kings 5:1-5 (Hiram loves David)

David and Jonathan

- 1 Samuel 18:1-3
- 1 Samuel 20:16-17
- 2 Samuel 1:26
- Joshua 22:5
- Isaiah 43:3-10

ISAIAH 43:3-10

- “For I am יהוה your Elohim, the Set-apart One of Yisra’ēl, your Saviour; I gave Mitsrayim for your ransom, Kush and Seba in your place. “Since you were precious in My eyes, you have been esteemed, and I have loved you. And I give men in your place, and peoples for your life. “Do not fear, for I am with you. I shall bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west. “I shall say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth – all those who are called by My Name, whom I have created, formed, even made for My esteem.” He shall bring out a blind people who have eyes, and deaf ones who have ears. All the nations shall be assembled, and the peoples be gathered. Who among them declares this, and show us former *events*? Let them give their witnesses, to be declared right; or let them hear and say, “It is truth.” “You are My witnesses,” declares יהוה, “And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no Ēl formed, nor after Me there is none.

DEUTERONOMY 10:12-13

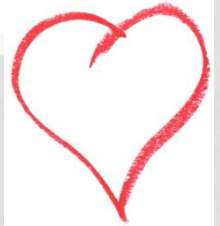
“And now, Yisra'ēl, what is יהוה your Elohim asking of you, but to fear יהוה your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, and to serve יהוה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your being, to guard the commands of יהוה and His laws which I command you today for your good”

SH^EMA

- *Sh^ema* = hear = internalize
- *Echad* = one = the only
- *Love* = covenant fealty = obey the Torah of your Elohim

...WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Heart (*lev*) appears over 850 times



It is associated with knowledge, meditation, morality, the place of thought or will, of decision-making and conscience.

...WITH ALL YOUR HEART

- Septuagint uses *dianoia* “mind” instead of *kardia*. (there is no Biblical Hebrew word for mind)
- Mark 12:30 adds “mind” (*dianoia*)
- From a Hittite vassal treaty, “*If you do not come to aid with full heart....with your army and your chariots and will not be prepared to die.*”

PROVERBS 3:1-7

My son, do not forget my Torah, And let your heart watch over my commands;

For length of days and long life And peace they add to you.

Let not kindness and truth forsake you – Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,

Thus finding favor and good insight In the eyes of Elohim and man.

Trust in יהוה with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Know Him in all your ways, And He makes all your paths straight.

Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear יהוה and turn away from evil.

SH^EMA

“Hear, O Yisra’ēl: יהוה our Elohim, יהוה alone!

“And you shall love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart,
and with all your being, and with all your might.

“And these Words which I am commanding you
today shall be in your heart, and you shall impress
them upon your children, and shall speak of them
when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the
way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up,
and shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they
shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

“And you shall write them on the doorposts of your
house and on your gates.

SH^EMA

- Words = D^evarim = covenant/treaty

Thus, the Sh^ema is an oath that we will be exclusively faithful to יהוה and His covenant with all our thoughts and decisions, our morals, and with our lives and all our all our resources.

It is an oath to become a *living sacrifice*.

UNDERSTANDING

“You heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder,’ and whoever murders shall be liable to judgment. “But I say to you that whoever is wroth with his brother without a cause shall be liable to judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raka!’ shall be liable to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be liable to fire of Gehenna. “If, then, you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother holds whatever against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go, first make peace with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

(Mat 5:21-24)

LEVITICUS 19:13-18

‘Do not oppress your neighbour or rob *him*. The wages of him who is hired is not to remain with you all night until morning.

‘Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling-block before the blind, but fear your Elohim. I am יהוה. ‘Do no unrighteousness in right-ruling. Do not be partial to the poor or favour the face of the great, but **rightly rule your neighbour in righteousness**.

‘Do not go slandering among your people. Do not stand against the blood of your neighbour. I am יהוה. ‘Do not hate your brother in your heart. **Reprove your neighbour, for certain, and bear no sin because of him**. ‘Do not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people. **And you shall love your neighbour as yourself**. I am יהוה.

TORAH VS. LAW CODE

Torah:

Creates a community where none existed before, by establishing a common relationship with a common master.

Law Code:

Presupposes a social order in which it serves as an instrument for maintaining an orderly freedom and security.

WHO WERE THE SAMARITANS?

- Came from a mixture of pagans and Levites
- Had a different version of the Scriptures
- Believed the law had been changed
- Were not accepted by Judah

LOVING ONE'S NEIGHBOR

An obligation to act properly, as defined by Torah, towards that person.

- Repeating them when they are in error (Lev 19:17)
- Letting your servants rest on Shabbat (Deut 5:14)
- Rendering even-handed justice (Lev 19:15)
- Not slandering a fellow Israelite (Lev 19:16)
- Love towards your neighbor fills-full the Torah (Gal 5:14)

INTERPERSONAL LOVE

In the Scriptures:

- Only a husband is said to love his wife
- Only a parent is said to love a child

Exceptions:

- Michah is said to have loved David because of her position of authority above his position (Princess to shephard)
- Ruth is said to love Naomi only after Ruth was married and had a child.