

## **God's Love for us**

**Deuteronomy 4:37** “And because **He loved** (Ahav ) **your fathers**, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,

**Exodus 20:5-6** ...For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup>but showing **mercy** (Hesed) to thousands, to those who **love** (Ahav ) Me and keep My commandments.

**Deuteronomy 7:6-13** “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>“**The Lord did not set His love** (Hashaq) on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; <sup>8</sup>“but because **the Lord loves** (Ahav ) **you**, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and **mercy** (Hesed) for a thousand generations with those **who love Him** (Ahav ) and keep His commandments; <sup>10</sup>“and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. <sup>11</sup>“Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.

<sup>12</sup>“Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and **the mercy** (Hesed) which He swore to your fathers. <sup>13</sup>“And **He will love you** and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.

**Deuteronomy 10:15** “**The Lord delighted only in your fathers, to love them**; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.

**Deuteronomy 33:1-3** Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. <sup>2</sup>And he said: “The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them. <sup>3</sup> Yes, **He loves the people**; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your words.

**Isaiah 43:4** Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have **loved** (Ahav ) you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life.

**Isaiah 54:10** For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But **My kindness** (Hesed) shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” Says the Lord, who has mercy on you.

**Isaiah 63:7-9** I will mention the **lovingkindnesses** (Hesed) of the Lord And the praises of the Lord, According to all that the Lord has bestowed on us, And the great goodness toward the

house of Israel, Which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, According to the multitude of His **lovingkindnesses**. 8 For He said, “Surely they are My people, Children who will not lie.” So He became their Savior. 9 In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His **love** (Ahav ) and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them All the days of old.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising **lovingkindness**, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the Lord.

**Jeremiah 31:3** The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have **loved** (Ahav ) you with an everlasting **love** (Ahav ); Therefore with **lovingkindness** (Hesed) I have drawn you.

**Jeremiah 32:17-18** ‘Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. 18‘You show **lovingkindness** to thousands, and repay the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them—the Great, the Mighty God, whose name is the Lord of hosts.

**1 Kings 10:9** “Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has **loved** Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”

**2 Chronicles 2:11** Then Hiram king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon: Because the Lord **loves** His people, He has made you king over them.

**2 Chronicles 9:8** “Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on His throne to be king for the Lord your God! Because your God has **loved** Israel, to establish them forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness.”

**Hosea 2:19** “I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In **lovingkindness** and mercy;

**Hosea 3:1** Then the Lord said to me, “Go again, **love** (Ahav ) a woman who is **loved** (Ahav ) by a **lover** and is committing adultery, just like **the love** (Ahav ) of the Lord for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans.”

**Hosea 11:1-4** “When Israel was a child, **I loved** (Ahav ) **him**, And out of Egypt I called My son. 2 As they called them, So they went from them; They sacrificed to the Baals, And burned incense to carved images. 3 “I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them. 4 I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of **love** (Ahav ), And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them.

**Hosea 14:4** “I will heal their backsliding, **I will love them freely** (Ahav ), For My anger has turned away from him.

**Micah 7:18** Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in **mercy** ( Hased)

**Zephaniah 3:17** The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you **with His love**, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

**Malachi 1:1-2** The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi. 2 “I **have loved** (Ahav ) you,” says the Lord. “Yet you say, ‘In what way have **You loved us?**’ Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” Says the Lord. “Yet Jacob I have **loved**;

**Psalms 17:6-7** I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech. 7 Show Your marvelous **lovingkindness** by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You From those who rise up against them.

**Proverbs 8:17** I **love** those who **love** me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

### **The Believers love for God**

**Deuteronomy 5:6-10** ‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 7‘You shall have no other gods before Me. 8‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 9you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 10but **showing mercy** to thousands, to those who **love** (Ahav ) Me and keep My commandments. (Also Exodus 20:6)

**Deuteronomy 6:5-6** “You shall **love** (Ahav ) the Lord your God with **all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.** 6“**And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.**

**Deuteronomy 11:16, 18, 22** “Take heed to yourselves, lest **your heart** be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them... “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine **in your heart and in your soul**, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.... 22 “For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to **love** the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—

**Deuteronomy 13:3-4** “you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether **you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.** 4“You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

**Deuteronomy 30:6** “And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, **to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul**, that you may live.

### **The Believer's love for the neighbor, stranger, etc.**

**Deuteronomy 10:12-22** “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and **to love Him**, to serve the Lord your God **with all your heart and with all your soul**, 13“and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? 14“Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it. 15“**The Lord delighted only in your fathers, to love them**; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16“Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer. 17“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. 18“He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. 19 “Therefore **love the stranger**, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. 20“You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name. 21“He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen. 22“Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

**Deut 7:9** “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and **mercy** (Hesed) for a thousand generations with those **who love Him** (Ahav ) and keep His commandments;

**Leviticus 19:18** ‘You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall **love** (Ahav ) your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord

*Lovingkindness* is a word found in older, more traditional versions of the English Bible, such as the [King James](#) (KJV) and the [New American Standard](#) (NASB). The Hebrew word most often translated “lovingkindness” is *cheded*, which literally means “covenant loyalty.” Most newer English translations of the Bible substitute more common English words such as *faithfulness*, *unfailing love*, *mercy*, or *good favor*. All of these are viable substitutions, but, as with many Hebrew words, *cheded* has no exact match in English.

While *lovingkindness* can describe one person's actions toward another ([Genesis 20:13](#); [21:23](#); [Joshua 2:12](#)), it is most often used to describe the character of the Lord. Many places in Scripture speak of the lovingkindness of the Lord ([Exodus 20:6](#), [34:6-7](#); [Deuteronomy 7:12](#); [2 Chronicles 1:8](#); [Psalm 31:16](#)). Lovingkindness is part of who God is; He delights in showing lovingkindness ([Micah 7:18](#)), and we praise Him for it ([Psalm 138:2](#)), but this specific word seems to imply a slightly different character trait than His basic goodness and compassion for all His creation ([Psalm 145:9](#)).

*Cheded* or lovingkindness, as it relates to the character of God, is most often used to describe God's heart toward those who are His own. Lovingkindness is God's kindness and steadfast love for His children, especially evident in His condescending to meet our needs. In Scripture, God shows His lovingkindness in saving His children from their enemies and delivering them from their troubles ([Exodus 15:13](#); [Jeremiah 31:3](#); [Ezra 7:28](#); [Psalm 6:4](#); [33:18](#); [119:149](#)). His lovingkindness comforts us ([Psalm 119:76](#)), redeems us from sin ([Numbers 14:19](#); [Psalm 25:7](#); [51:1](#)), and assures us of His promises ([Deuteronomy 7:9](#); [Nehemiah 1:5](#); [2 Samuel 7:15](#); [Psalm 18:50](#)).

God's lovingkindness is abundant ([Numbers 14:18](#)), great in extent ([Psalm 33:5](#); [145:8](#)), everlasting ([Jeremiah 33:11](#); [Psalm 100:5](#)), and full of goodness ([Psalm 69:17](#)). God's lovingkindness, His steadfast, loving actions on our behalf, knows no bounds: “Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens / And Your truth to the clouds” ([Psalm 57:10](#), [NASB](#)).