

To Know and Love Our King

Love in the First Century Writings

Definition of “to love” (Hebrew: *ahav*) in the context of ancient Near Eastern political language:

“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.

Love towards one’s neighbor includes fulfilling your covenantal obligations towards them as defined by Torah as well as reproofing them when they are in error so that they can have reconciliation with the King.

Verses in the First Century Writings to research concerning the usage of the word “love”:

- John 3:16
 - Of interest, look in the Strong’s Concordance at the word translated as “in”. When you research this, you’ll find that a more correct translation would be, “...*that whosoever believes into the Son should not perish*”
- Romans 14:15
 - Shows our covenantal responsibility towards each other.
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-8
 - Shows the importance of covenantal love
- Ephesians 2:1-6
 - The depths of the Father’s covenantal love, His fealty towards the covenant with us, are manifested in His offering of Yeshua for us.
- Ephesians 3:14-21
 - “rooted and grounded in love” – covenantal fealty. Think about the parable of the sower.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:7-12
 - Elohim taught them about brotherly love.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
 - People perish because they did not receive the “love” of the truth.
- Matthew 6:24
 - It is only possible to “love” one master

- John 13:34-35
 - All know us by our “love” for one another.
- John 14:21-23
 - Covenantal love: guarding the commands of one’s suzerain
- John 15:12-14
 - Friends of the suzerain (Yeshua) if we follow his command, which is love towards another vassal.
 - Note: Laying down one’s life for his friends doesn’t always mean physical death. Yeshua laid down his life in heaven to come down to earth and become a servant for mankind.
- John 21:15-16
 - Love the suzerain – provide for his vassals
- James 2:8-13
 - Loving one’s neighbor by reproofing them must come with compassion
- 1 John 3:18-20
 - Love is an action, not a lip service or feeling.
- 1 John 4:19-21
 - Love towards Elohim is shown through loving your [covenant] brother.
- 1 John 5:2-3
 - Love towards your covenant brothers is by loving Elohim through guarding His commandments
 - Compare 1 John 4:19-21 with 1 John 5:2-3
- Revelation 3:19
 - Yah’s love towards us includes reproof and discipline.