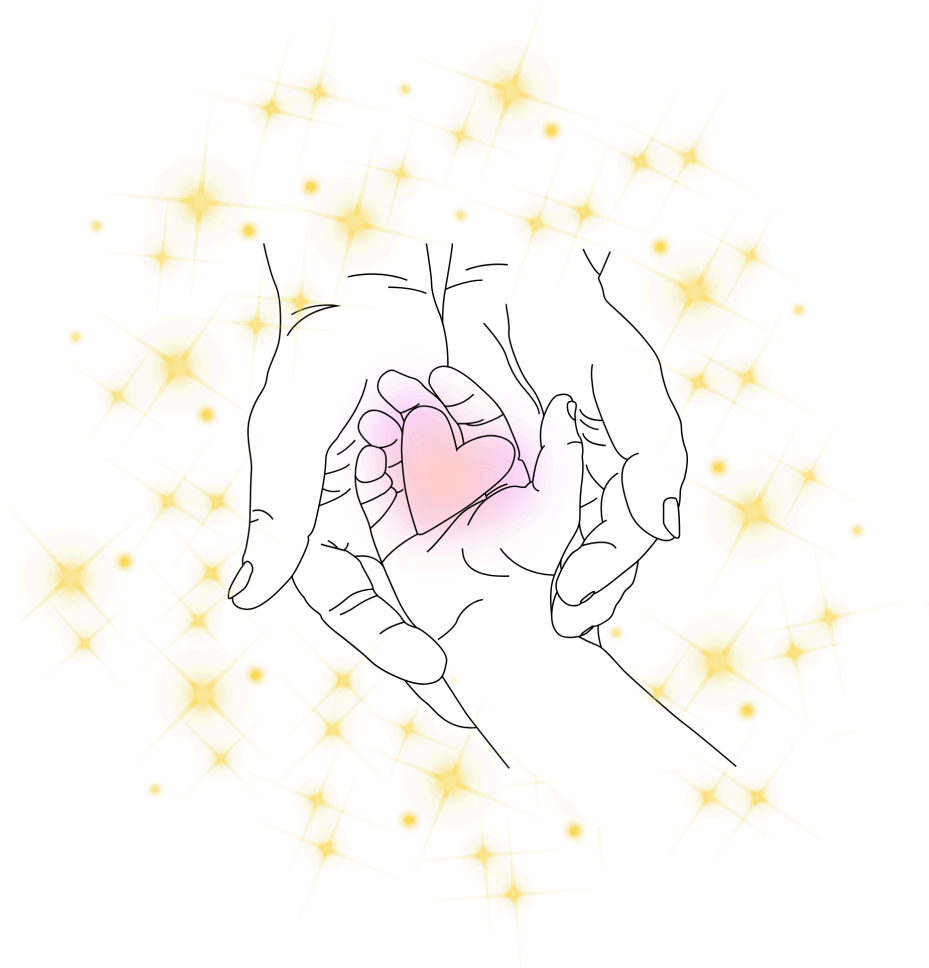


The Loving Father

Hebraic Word Study



Catherine M. Reeder

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Cover art by Catherine Reeder, Inspiration from Genesis 15:5 (God's promise to father Abraham)

Introduction

The last sentence of the Old Testament says,

“He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”

- Malachi 4:6, NASB

God made a promise that the hearts of fathers and their children will be restored to each other. The fact that this is the very last statement God makes in the Old Testament is not a mistake. God wants to restore those relationships because He knows what it is like to lose His children and watch them follow after things that do not bring them true peace. He knows what it is like to lose a Son. God knows what it is like to be a father, because He is the original Father. He created mankind in His own image (*Genesis 1:27*).

He is not just the author of existence, He is the Father of existence, and He is ready to restore that which was once broken.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

- Psalm 147:3, NASB

God the Father

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”
- Romans 8:15, NASB

‘‘*ab*’ is the Hebrew word for father. It is made up of the *aleph* and *bet*.

‘‘*ab*’



aleph (1/1) – oneness, thousand; strong; power; leader; who/what is first; oneness and unity with God; Adonai/Yahweh; to teach, discipline, tame; ox head, bull

bet (2/2) – duality; house (physical building or body of something or someone); heart; tent; family, household; preposition meaning inside, within, amid, in, into; tent floorplan

The father is the leader of the household. He is strong, powerful, teaches, disciplines, and tames. He also leads his children’s hearts. He must be in unity with God to lead his household so that they are within Yahweh’s boundaries.

Adonai, our Father in heaven, teaches and disciplines us. He leads us and tames us so that we may bring His good fruit into the world through connection with Him. He has brought us into His family through Christ Jesus so that we may call Him our Father and allow Him to change our hearts.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household.
- Ephesians 2:19, NASB

Note: For more on God’s design for the family structure, read Ephesians 5 and 6.

The numeric value of the *aleph* is one, and the numeric value of the *bet* is two. When we add these together, we see the numeric value or gematria of this word is three.

Already, we can see that the word father points us to the Trinity. This also points to the fact that someone becomes a father when a third person is added to a family.

The third letter of the Hebrew alphabet is the *gimel*.

gimel (3/3) – Trinity; God’s lovingkindness, provision, blessing; something lifted up, pride, self will; man walking; to nourish until completely ripe; camel (endurance)

As we see reading through the deeper meanings of the *gimel*, it is a picture of God’s lovingkindness. It is a picture of provision, blessing, and nourishment. These are all attributes of a good father. Someone who provides, blesses, and shows God’s lovingkindness to his family. He lifts up pride and self-will so that he may walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.
- Ephesians 5:25, NASB

If you have ever used a Strong’s Concordance, you may have noticed that the word ‘*’ab*’ is Hebrew Strong’s #1. This is because it is made up of the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. There are four words in the Hebrew language made up of these two letters. Two of these words mean father.

Hebrew Strong’s #1, ‘*’ab*’, means father of an individual, of God as father of His people, while the other Hebrew word for father, Hebrew Strong’s #2, simply means father as a biological father.

The Hebrew word father is the first word you see if you alphabetize the entire Hebrew language. There is intention in everything God does, even down to the arrangement of letters in His people’s language.

When God stated in Malachi 4:6 that He would turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children, was He also speaking of turning His heart back to His own long-lost children? Was He promising that He would make a way for those who were not descendants of Abraham to have relationship with Him? Is this not why the very last sentence of the Old Testament was a declaration of the importance of the connection between a father and his children? God our Father made a way for us to return to Him, just as He had planned since the beginning.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.
- Galatians 3:28-29, NASB

So why is it so important that this verse is the last in the Old Testament?

The definition of the word *testament* means a will, especially one that relates to the disposition of one's personal property, and a covenant, especially between God and humans.

In the story of the prodigal son, the father gave his sons birthrights and property to them while he was still living. Today, this would be called the father's last will and testament. The father did not have to give this to his sons, but he did. They asked, and it was given to them, whether they deserved it or not.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

- Matthew 7:7-11, NASB

God has given you your birthright and created a covenant with you while He is alive. You do not have to wait for it. He has given it to you freely now! He is a Father who gives good gifts to His children.

God is Love

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- 1 John 4:8, NASB

There are many ways people say love works, but if we know that the Bible is the truth, we know that God is love and that all forms of love that come from the world or self are not true, unconditional, and fulfilling love. Real love can only be known through God.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away...

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13, NIV

To truly understand love, we must know God. This passage in 1 Corinthians 13 is not just a description of love; it is a description of God himself! Take a moment and read back through, but instead of saying "love," replace it with "God."

It is easy for us to say Jesus is love; it is probably just as easy to say that the Holy Spirit is love, but is it easy to say that God our Father is love? We think of Him as a judge who sends those who don't know and follow Him to hell. In reality, Jesus is also judge.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

- 2 Corinthians 5:10, NASB

The world has taught us to think that God the Father is a cruel and unrelenting God. But in reality, He is a God of love. He Himself is love.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

- John 3:16, NASB

God gave up His own Son so that you could be called His child and live with Him. That is not the act of a Father who hates His lost children. It is the act of a God who sacrificed what was most important to Him so that all of His children can come back to Him.

Note: Jesus gave Himself up; God the Father did not force Him to do this.

*And walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave **Himself** up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- Ephesians 5:2, NASB*

Sometimes we see God the Father making a sacrifice of Jesus when, in reality, Jesus could have gone back up to heaven at any time, but He chose not to.

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- 1 John 4:8, NASB

The word love in this passage is the Greek word ‘*agapé*’, which means brotherly love, affection, good will, love, and benevolence.

The Hebrew equivalent of ‘*agapé*’ is ‘*ahābāh*’. This word means love as in human love for one another, romantic love, but also means God’s love for His people.

‘*ahābāh*’


aleph (1/1) – oneness, thousand; strong; power; leader; who/what is first; oneness and unity with God; Adonai/Yahweh; to teach, discipline, tame; ox head, bull

hey (5/5) – grace; to look, show, or reveal; to behold; breath of God; God’s presence and/or creative power; Holy Spirit; window, man with arms raised

bet (2/2) – duality; house (physical building or body of something or someone); heart; tent; family, household; preposition meaning inside, within, amid, in, into; tent floorplan

Love is a picture of God (**aleph**) being revealed (**hey**) to us by the Holy Spirit (**hey**) so that our hearts (**bet**) may be connected to Him and we can become members of His household (**bet**) through grace (**hey**).

We can see that the **bet**, which is a picture of a household, heart, and family, is surrounded by the **hey**, which means grace and the Holy Spirit. The only way our hearts can be connected to Adonai is through the Holy Spirit.

God's love is a picture of protection, grace, and connection with Him. This is why worldly love is not sufficient. Godly love is full of the Holy Spirit. Without God and connection with Him, we will never understand what love is because we will not know who He is. God is love.

Our Loving Father

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

- 1 John 3:1, NASB

We are the children of God. He is our loving Father. He gave up His own Son so that we may be restored to His family.

And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.

- 2 Corinthians 6:18, NASB

There is one more thing that I would like to show you that proves that God is a loving Father. Below are the Hebrew words for Father and love.

‘‘âb’

‘‘ahăbâh’

As you can see, the word for father is in the word love! The *aleph* and *bet* are only separated by the *hey*, grace. The word for love is also a picture of God’s (*aleph*) heart (*bet*) being surrounded by the Holy Spirit (*hey*); therefore, we must have connection with God through the Holy Spirit so that we may know His heart.

God carefully created a way to remind us that He is not just love, but a loving father. So much so that He put the word father inside the word for His love for His people!

But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand.

- Isaiah 64:8, NASB

Conclusion

The mature children of God are those who are moved by the impulses of the Holy Spirit.

And you did not receive the “spirit of religious duty,”
leading you back into the fear of never being good enough.

But you have received the “Spirit of full acceptance,”
enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned,
for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection,
“Beloved Father!”

For the Holy Spirit makes God’s fatherhood real to us as he whispers into our innermost being,
“You are God’s beloved child!”

And since we are his true children, we qualify to share all his treasures,
for indeed, we are heirs of God himself.

And since we are joined to Christ, we also inherit all that he is and all that he has.
We will experience being co-glorified with him provided that we accept his sufferings as our
own.

- Romans 8:14-17, TPT

Adoani wants us to know Him as our Beloved Father. This means that when we think of God as our Father, we must not think of Him as distant or someone who disciplines us out of hatred, but someone who does these things out of love. He is longing to turn your heart back to Him. He doesn’t want you to feel as if you’ve been orphaned, but adopted.

It [love] does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

- 1 Corinthians 13:5, NIV

Your Father is not easily angered. He keeps no record of wrongs. He has surrounded you with the grace of the Holy Spirit so that you can be in **relationship** with Him. So that you may know His heart. He has not given you a spirit of religious duty, but a spirit of full acceptance.

As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Just as a father loves his children,
So the Lord loves those who fear and worship Him [with awe-filled respect and deepest reverence].

- Psalm 103:12-13, AMP

Your Father is waiting for you to come home to Him. He is waiting to reveal the great love that He has for you, if you will only allow Him to show it to you. Let Him adopt you into His family, and He will never abandon you.

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
- John 14:18, NIV

Let the cry from your heart be Abba! Father!

The entire universe is standing on tiptoe, yearning to see the unveiling of God's glorious sons
and daughters!
- Romans 8:19, TPT

Shalom shalom, my friends.