

LOVINGKINDNESS ENDURING LOVE MERCY GENEROUS LOVE DEEP LOVE MERCIFUL LOVE LOYAL LOVE COVENANT LOVE



# HESED

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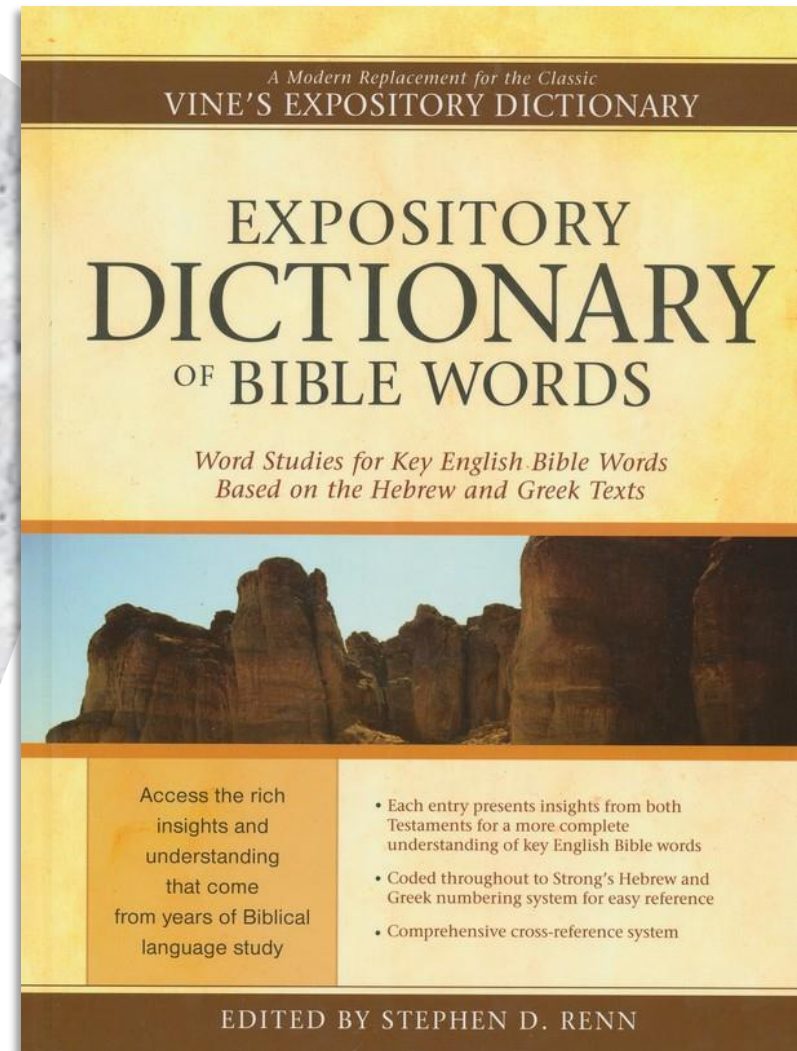
*The Most Beautiful Word in the World*

COVENANT FRIENDSHIP STEADFAST LOVE CHARITY RELIABLE SOLIDARITY IMMENSE FAVOR GOODNESS LOYALTY

# DEFINING HESED

“**Hesed** constitutes one of the most significant theological terms in the Hebrew Scriptures. The right understanding of the term is bound up with its relationship to the divine covenant with Israel. ... Concerning the translation of **hesed** with reference to the character of Yahweh, it is difficult, if not impossible, to precisely convey the full meaning of the term with just one English word or phrase. ... As far as the use of **hesed** in relation to humankind is concerned, much of the same diversity in the nuance of the term is evident.”

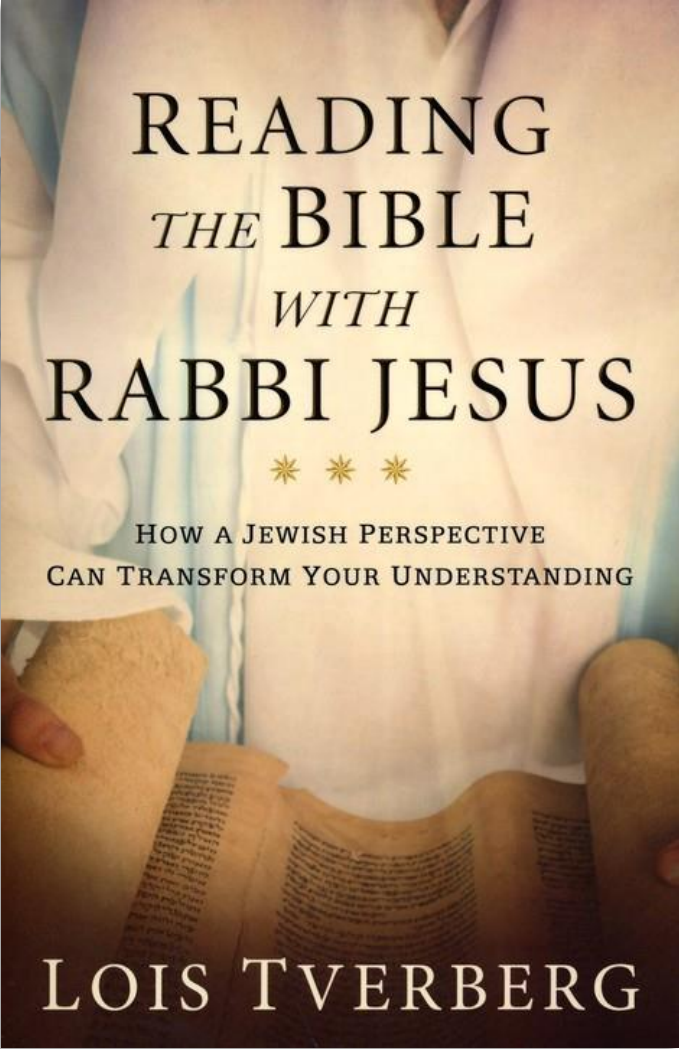
*Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, 633-634*



# DEFINING HESED

“Some people wonder where they can find grace in the Old Testament, not realizing that the word *hesed* encompasses this and so much more—a long-suffering love that extends kindness to the undeserving and intervenes on their behalf (Exod. 34:6; Isa. 54:10; Lam. 3:31-32).”

*Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus, 258*



READING  
*THE* BIBLE  
*WITH*  
RABBI JESUS



HOW A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE  
CAN TRANSFORM YOUR UNDERSTANDING

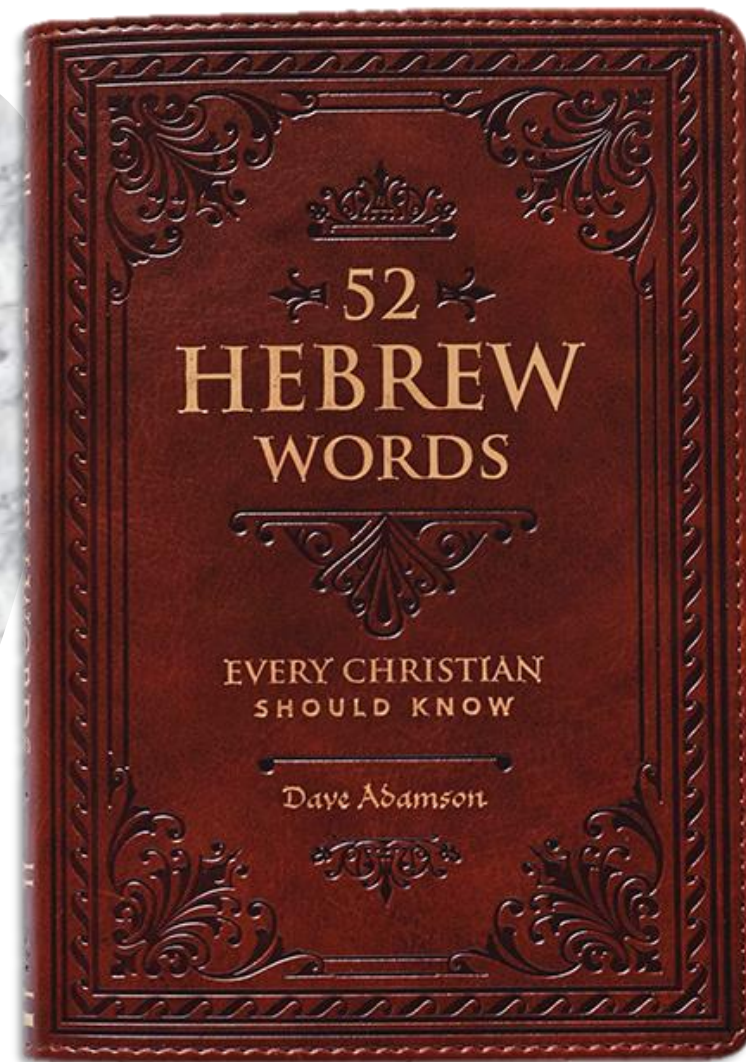
LOIS TVERBERG



# DEFINING HESED

“Theologian John Oswalt says chesed is ‘a completely undeserved kindness and generosity.’ Chesed, in the words of the 1970s rock group Boston, is more than a feeling—it’s an action. Or more accurately, it’s a series of actions that define and underline a relationship. ... While we often think of love as a romantic feeling, chesed is much more than this. It’s faithful. It’s reliable. It’s loyal. ... Chesed is a love based on action. And chesed is unfailing.”

*52 Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know, 81*



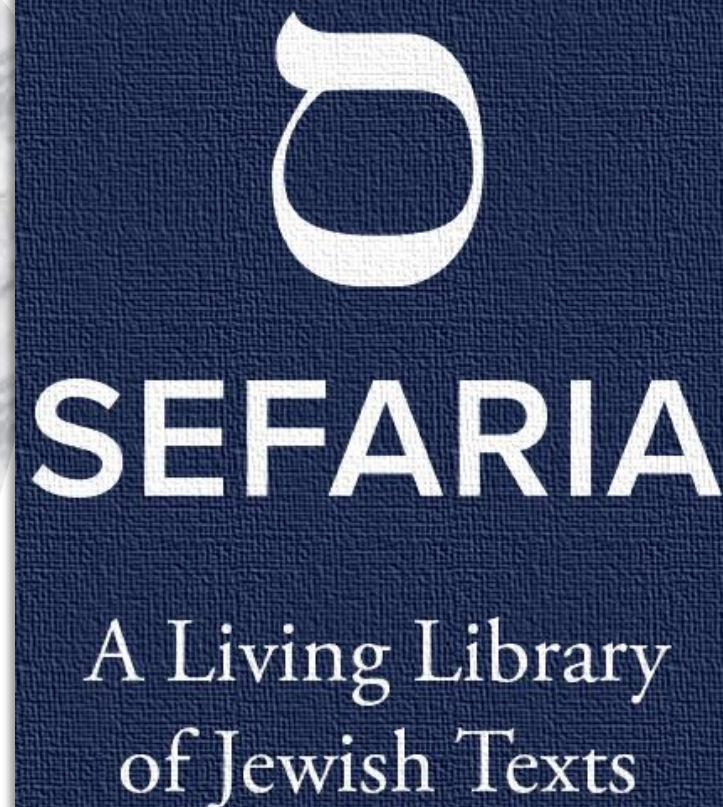
# DEFINING HESED

“There is no perfect English translation for the Hebrew word *chesed*, and though many texts translate it loosely as ‘loving kindness,’ this is only an approximation. A more complete definition can be broken down to three components:

1. Choosing to feel and/or hear another’s pain or hurt.
2. Choosing to act to heal that person’s pain or hurt.
3. Doing the above without any expectation of reward or calculation.

This type of selfless kindness requires making the choice to shift the focus away from yourself and your own needs, and really put yourself in another person’s shoes.”

*Sefaria*, “KINDNESS (Chesed)” by Hanan Harchol





# DEFINING HESED

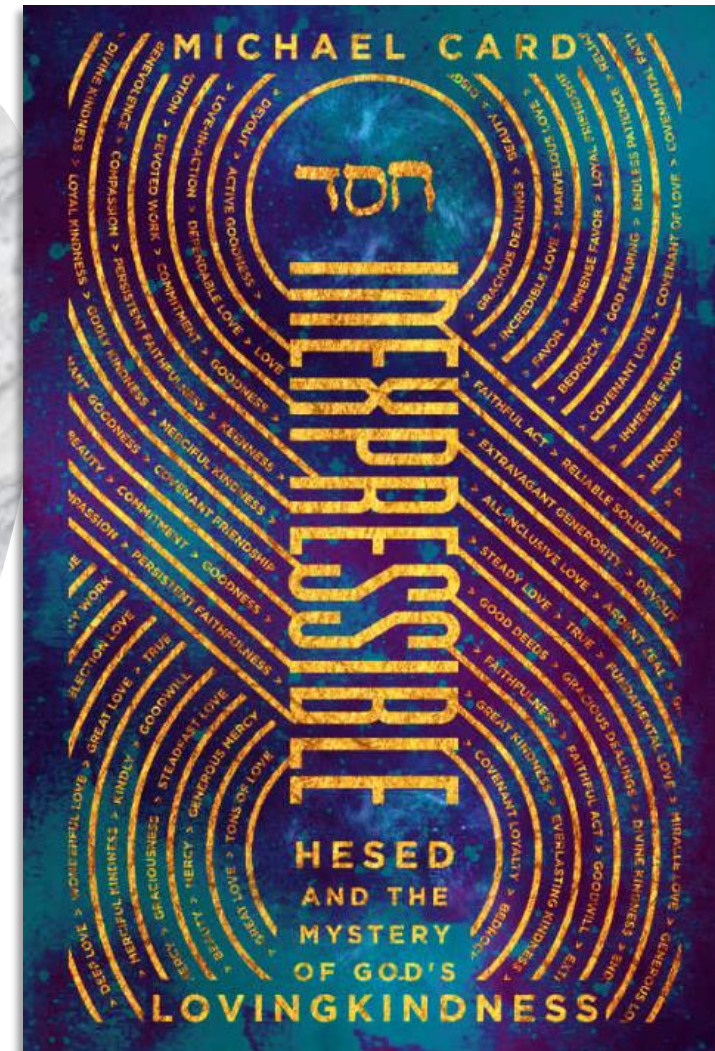
Michael Card, who literally wrote the book on hesed, gives us a good working definition of the term:

**“*Hesed*: When the person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything.”**

*Inexpressible, 5*

“Let’s let go of the illusion that *hesed* can be reduced to one English ‘literal’ word and instead see it as a key that can open a door into an entire world—the world of God’s own heart, the world of loving our neighbor and perhaps even our enemies...”

*Inexpressible, 13*

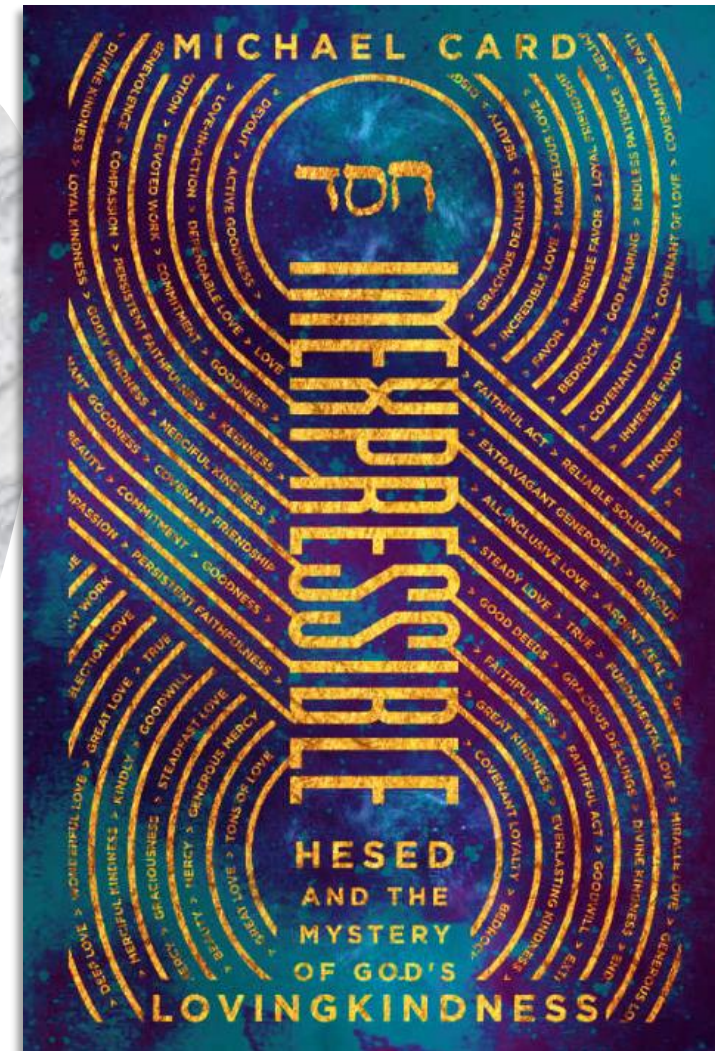


# LINGUISTIC GRAVITY

“One of the fascinating features of *hesed* is its tendency to draw other words to itself by means of its ‘linguistic gravity.’ It’s as if in struggling to express the inexpressible, the original writer was forced to enlist other words beside *hesed* to help convey its meaning.”

*Inexpressible*, 11

Words			References
אֱמֶת	<i>emeth</i>	truth	Gen 24:27, 49; 32:10; 47:29; Ex 34:6; Jos 2:14; 2 Sam 2:6; 15:20; Ps 25:10; 40:10; 57:3; 61:7; 69:13; 85:10; 86:15; 89:14; Pr 3:3; 14:22; 16:6; 20:28; Hos 4:1
רַחֵם	<i>racham</i>	mercy, compassion	Ps 25:6; 103:4; Jer 16:5; Dan 1:9; Hos 2:19; Zech 7:9
בְּרִית	<i>berith</i>	covenant	Deut 7:9, 12; 1 Kgs 8:23; 2 Ch 6:14; Neh 1:5; Dan 9:4
מִשְׁפָּט	<i>mishpat</i>	justice, judgment	Ps 100:5; Jer 9:24; Hos 12:6
אֱמוּנָה	<i>emunah</i>	faithfulness, steadfastness	Ps 89:24; 98:3
טוֹב	<i>towb</i>	good, beautiful	Ps 23:6; 86:5
חֵן	<i>chen</i>	favor, grace	Est 2:17
צְדִיק	<i>tsaddiq</i>	righteousness	Pr 21:21





# AN ETERNAL LITURGY

“...His *hesed* endures forever.”

(occurs 41 times)

(1 Ch 16:34, 41; 2 Ch 5:13; 7:3, 6; 20:21; Ps 100:5; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1, 2, 3, 4, 29; 136:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26; Jer 33:11)

- 6 times in Chronicles
- 34 times in the Psalms
- 1 time in Jeremiah
- **First occurrence:** David's psalm of thanksgiving after bringing the ark into Jerusalem (1 Chron 16)
- Occurs in every verse of Psalm 136
- In many ways serves as a motto/central liturgy for Israel



# HESED BEYOND THE OT

## Tradition

- “*Hesed* is not only the most important theme of the Torah, it is the theme of everything; all of Torah and of creation flows from the value of *hesed*.” (Yerucham Levovitz, “the Mashgiach”)
- According to the Talmud:
  - “He who occupies himself with Torah study alone without doing acts of *hesed* is as if he had no G-d.” (Avodah Torah 17b)
  - “The world stands on three things; the Torah, the Temple service, and the practice of acts of *hesed*.” (Pirkei Avot 1:2)
  - “Acts of *hesed* are greater than righteousness [*tzedakah*].” (Sukkot 49b)

## In the New Testament

- **In Christ’s person:** John begins his Gospel by describing Jesus as being “full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14), which many have seen as an allusion to God’s describing Himself as “abounding in *hesed* and truth” (Ex 34:6).
- **On Christ’s lips:** *Hesed* is a central theme to many of Christ’s parables, and on more than one incident (i.e., Mt 9:13; 12:7), Christ cites Hosea 6:6 (“I desire *hesed*, not sacrifice”) in order to rebuke the religious leaders of his day.
- **In the Scriptures:** Many Greek terms that the LXX uses for *hesed* are prominent (and crucial) themes in NT theology.

## Greeks Words for *Hesed* Used by the LXX

ἔλεος	<i>eleos</i>	mercy, pity, compassion	197x
δικαιοσύνη	<i>diskaiosune</i>	righteousness, justice	6x
χάρις	<i>charis</i>	grace, kindness	2x
ἐλπίς	<i>elpis</i>	hope, expectation	1x
ὄνοματια	<i>onomatia</i>	name(sake)	1x
δόξα	<i>doxa</i>	glory, honor	1x
ὅσια	<i>hosia</i>	holy	1x

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HESED

As One of Yahweh's Key Attributes

“The great surprise of the Hebrew Bible is not that God is awesome or holy. These characteristics we would expect from God. The great surprise is that he is kind, that he is a God of hesed. This is what fundamentally makes him unlike any other god, then or now.”

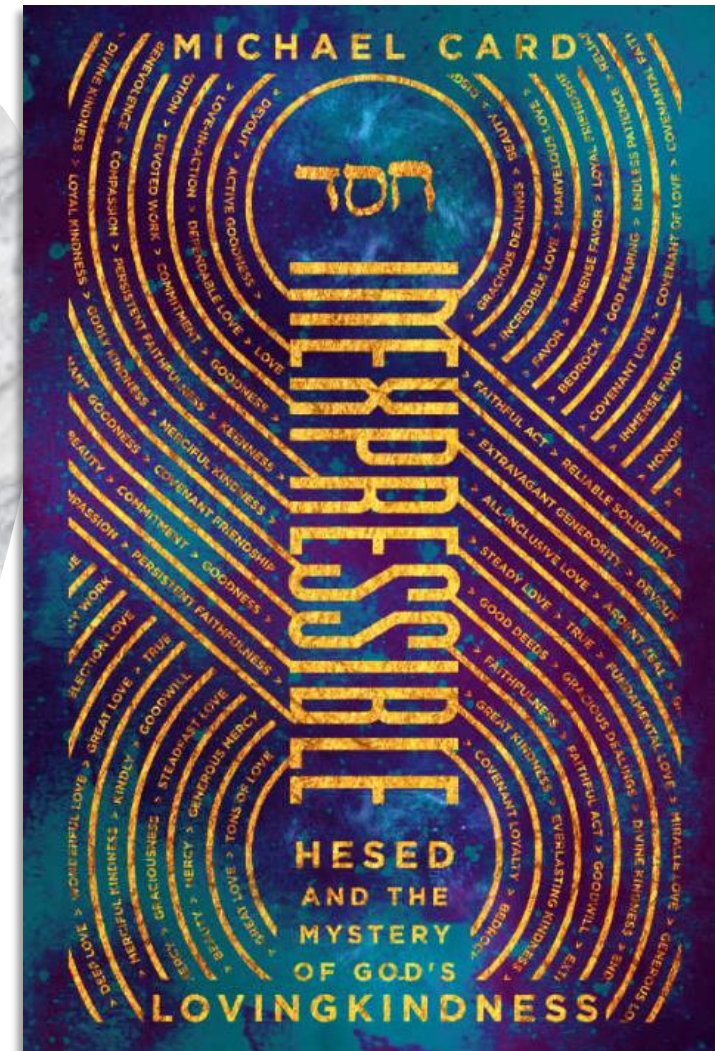
*Inexpressible, 43*

“**Hesed** is a defining characteristic of God. It is linked to his compassion and graciousness. It is expressed in his willingness to forgive wrongdoing and to take upon himself the sin, rebellion, and wrongdoing of his people. ... They marvel that no other god is like their God because of his hesed.”

*Inexpressible, 135-36*

“The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ... created the world, the rabbis said, just so he could show it his *hesed*.”

*Inexpressible, 41*





# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HESED

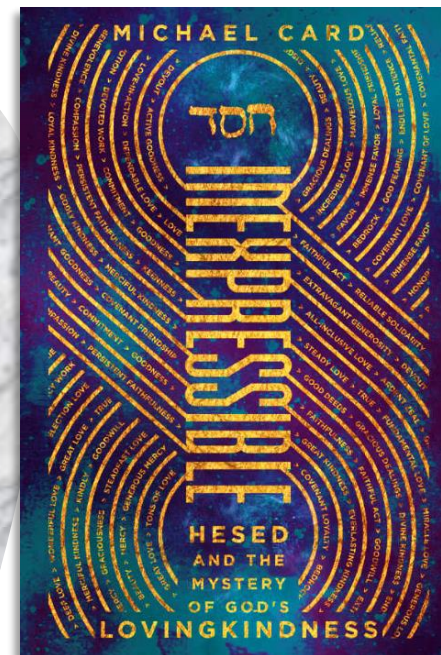
As One of Scripture's Key Themes

“In the Torah we discovered the definitive experience of God’s hesed: God telling us who he is. In the historical books we witnessed the heartbreak associated with the violation of the hope of hesed. In the Psalms we listened to the unique resonance of the hesed our hearts were created and tuned to sing to. In the Prophets we meet the One who is himself hesed (Jer 3:12).”

*Inexpressible, 84*

“With regard to the Torah, its beginning is an act of *chesed* and its end is an act of *chesed*. Its beginning is an act of *chesed*, as it is written: “And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skin, and clothed them” (Genesis 3:21). And its end is an act of *chesed*, as it is written: “And he was buried in the valley in the land of Moab” (Deuteronomy 34:6).”

*Talmud, Sotah 14a*



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# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HESED

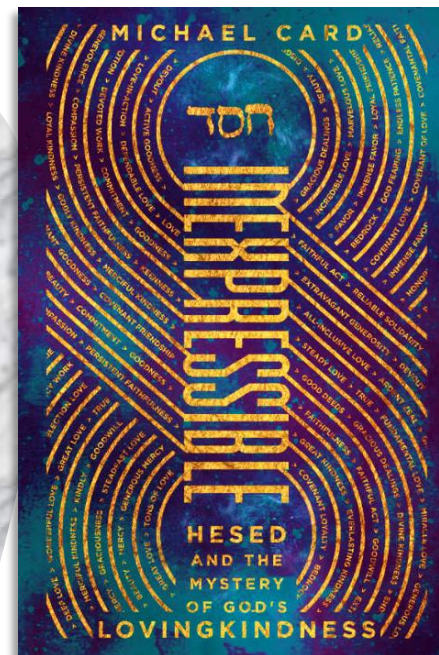
*As One of Man's Chief Callings*

“[Hesed] is a costly enterprise, perhaps the most costly enterprise. It cost God everything. That having been said, ... God delights in doing hesed. And so should we.”

*Inexpressible, 138*

“*Chesed* is considered to be one of the most significant *mitzvot*. Judaism's emphasis on *chesed* is pervasive. Throughout the legal codes and commentary, *chesed* is commanded towards all of humanity, as well as towards animals.”

*Sefaria, “KINDNESS (Chesed)” by Hanan Harchol*



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*Hesed in*  
**GENESIS**

*In the Beginning*

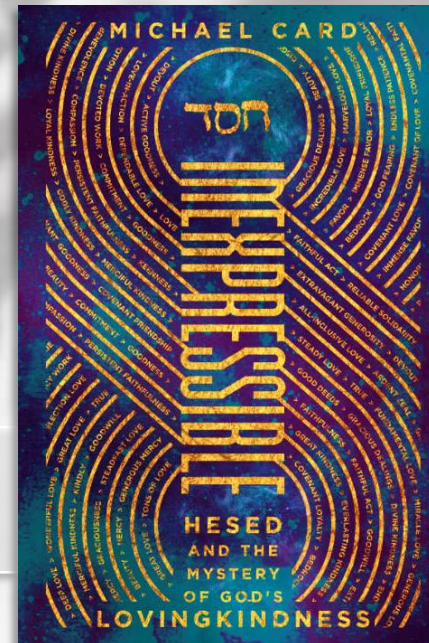
# HESED IN GENESIS

Hesed (חסד) appears 11 times in Genesis.

#	Vs	#	Vs
1	19:19	7	24:49
2	20:13	8	32:10
3	21:23	9	39:21
4	24:12	10	40:14
5	24:14	11	47:29
6	24:27		

“In Genesis, *hesed* indicates an exceptional favor from God, something that has not been earned but graciously given.”

*Inexpressible*, 9





# GENESIS 19

## *The Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah*

**14** Then Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law who were going to marry his daughters. He said, “Quick, get out of this place because the Lord is about to destroy the city!” But his sons-in-law thought he was ridiculing them.

**15** At dawn the angels hurried Lot along, saying, “Get going! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you will be destroyed when the city is judged!” **16** When Lot hesitated, the men grabbed his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters because the Lord had compassion on them. They led them away and placed them outside the city. **17** When they had brought them outside, they said, “Run for your lives! Don’t look behind you or stop anywhere in the valley! Escape to the mountains or you will be destroyed!”

**18** But Lot said to them, “No, please, Lord! **19** Your servant has found favor with you, and you have shown me great **kindness (chesed)** by sparing my life. But I am not able to escape to the mountains because this disaster will overtake me and I’ll die. **20** Look, this town over here is close enough to escape to, and it’s just a little one. Let me go there. It’s just a little place, isn’t it? Then I’ll survive.”

**21** “Very well,” he replied, “I will grant this request too and will not overthrow the town you mentioned. **22** Run there quickly, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” (This incident explains why the town was called Zoar.)

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	

# GENESIS 20

## *Abraham & Abimelech (p.1)*

**8** Early in the morning Abimelech summoned all his servants. When he told them about all these things, they were terrified. **9** Abimelech summoned Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? What sin did I commit against you that would cause you to bring such great guilt on me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done!” **10** Then Abimelech asked Abraham, “What prompted you to do this thing?”

**11** Abraham replied, “Because I thought, ‘Surely no one fears God in this place. They will kill me because of my wife.’ **12** What’s more, she is indeed my sister, my father’s daughter, but not my mother’s daughter. She became my wife. **13** When God made me wander from my father’s house, I told her, ‘This is what you can do to show your **loyalty (chesed)** to me: Every place we go, say about me, “He is my brother.”’”

**14** So Abimelech gave sheep, cattle, and male and female servants to Abraham. He also gave his wife Sarah back to him. **15** Then Abimelech said, “Look, my land is before you; live wherever you please.”

**16** To Sarah he said, “Look, I have given 1,000 pieces of silver to your ‘brother.’ This is compensation for you so that you will stand vindicated before all who are with you.”

**17** Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, as well as his wife and female slaves so that they were able to have children. **18** For the Lord had caused infertility to strike every woman in the household of Abimelech because he took Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	



# GENESIS 21

## *Abraham & Abimelech (p.2)*

**22** At that time Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, said to Abraham, “God is with you in all that you do. **23** Now swear to me right here in God’s name that you will not deceive me, my children, or my descendants. Show me, and the land where you are staying, the same **loyalty (*chesed*)** that I have shown you.”

**24** Abraham said, “I swear to do this.” **25** But Abraham lodged a complaint against Abimelech concerning a well that Abimelech’s servants had seized. **26** “I do not know who has done this thing,” Abimelech replied. “Moreover, you did not tell me. I did not hear about it until today.”

**27** Abraham took some sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech. The two of them made a treaty. **28** Then Abraham set seven ewe lambs apart from the flock by themselves. **29** Abimelech asked Abraham, “What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?” **30** He replied, “You must take these seven ewe lambs from my hand as legal proof that I dug this well.” **31** That is why he named that place Beer Sheba, because the two of them swore an oath there.

**32** So they made a treaty at Beer Sheba; then Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, returned to the land of the Philistines. **33** Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer Sheba. There he worshiped the Lord, the eternal God. **34** So Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for quite some time.

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	

# GENESIS 24

## *Finding a Wife for Isaac*

**10** Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed with all kinds of gifts from his master at his disposal. He journeyed to the region of Aram Naharaim and the city of Nahor. **11** He made the camels kneel down by the well outside the city. It was evening, the time when the women would go out to draw water. **12** He prayed, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, guide me today. **Be faithful (*chesed*)** to my master Abraham. **13** Here I am, standing by the spring, and the daughters of the people who live in the town are coming out to draw water. **14** I will say to a young woman, 'Please lower your jar so I may drink.' May the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac reply, 'Drink, and I'll give your camels water too.' In this way I will know that you have **been faithful (*chesed*)** to my master."

**15** Before he had finished praying, there came Rebekah with her water jug on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah (Milcah was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor). **16** Now the young woman was very beautiful. She was a virgin; no man had ever been physically intimate with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came back up. **17** Abraham's servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a sip of water from your jug." **18** "Drink, my lord," she replied, and quickly lowering her jug to her hands, she gave him a drink. **19** When she had done so, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have drunk as much as they want." **20** She quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw more water until she had drawn enough for all his camels. **21** Silently the man watched her with interest to determine if the Lord had made his journey successful or not.

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	



# GENESIS 24

## *Finding a Wife for Isaac (cont.)*

**22** After the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold wrist bracelets weighing ten shekels and gave them to her. **23** “Whose daughter are you?” he asked. “Tell me, is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

**24** She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom Milcah bore to Nahor. **25** We have plenty of straw and feed,” she added, “and room for you to spend the night.”

**26** The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord, **27** saying, “Praised be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his **faithful love** (*chesed + emeth*) for my master! The Lord has led me to the house of my master’s relatives!”

**28** The young woman ran and told her mother’s household all about these things. **29** (Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban.) Laban rushed out to meet the man at the spring. **30** When he saw the bracelets on his sister’s wrists and the nose ring and heard his sister Rebekah say, “This is what the man said to me,” he went out to meet the man. There he was, standing by the camels near the spring. **31** Laban said to him, “Come, you who are blessed by the Lord! Why are you standing out here when I have prepared the house and a place for the camels?”

**32** So Abraham’s servant went to the house and unloaded the camels. Straw and feed were given to the camels, and water was provided so that he and the men who were with him could wash their feet. **33** When food was served, he said, “I will not eat until I have said what I want to say.” “Tell us,” Laban said.

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	

# GENESIS 24

## *Finding a Wife for Isaac (cont.)*

[Verses 34-44, Abraham's servant recounts the story]

**45** “Before I finished praying in my heart, along came Rebekah with her water jug on her shoulder! She went down to the spring and drew water. So I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’ **46** She quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll give your camels water too.’ So I drank, and she also gave the camels water. **47** Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She replied, ‘The daughter of Bethuel the son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to Nahor.’ I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. **48** Then I bowed down and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right path to find the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son. **49** Now, if you will show **faithful love (chesed + emeth)** to my master, tell me. But if not, tell me as well, so that I may go on my way.”

**50** Then Laban and Bethuel replied, “This is the Lord’s doing. Our wishes are of no concern. **51** Rebekah stands here before you. Take her and go so that she may become the wife of your master’s son, just as the Lord has decided.”

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	



# GENESIS 32

## *Jacob Prepares to Reunite with Esau*

**1** So Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met him. **2** When Jacob saw them, he exclaimed, “This is the camp of God!” So he named that place Mahanaim.

**3** Jacob sent messengers on ahead to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the region of Edom. **4** He commanded them, “This is what you must say to my lord Esau: ‘This is what your servant Jacob says: I have been staying with Laban until now. **5** I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants. I have sent this message to inform my lord, so that I may find favor in your sight.’”

**6** The messengers returned to Jacob and said, “We went to your brother Esau. He is coming to meet you and has 400 men with him.” **7** Jacob was very afraid and upset. So he divided the people who were with him into two camps, as well as the flocks, herds, and camels. **8** “If Esau attacks one camp,” he thought, “then the other camp will be able to escape.”

**9** Then Jacob prayed, “O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, O Lord, you said to me, ‘Return to your land and to your relatives and I will make you prosper.’ **10** I am not worthy of all the **faithful love** (*chesed + emeth*) you have shown your servant. With only my walking stick I crossed the Jordan, but now I have become two camps. **11** Rescue me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, as well as the mothers with their children. **12** But you said, ‘I will certainly make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand on the seashore, too numerous to count.’”

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	

# GENESIS 39

## *Joseph & Potiphar's Wife*

**11** One day he went into the house to do his work when none of the household servants were there in the house. **12** She grabbed him by his outer garment, saying, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his outer garment in her hand and ran outside. **13** When she saw that he had left his outer garment in her hand and had run outside, **14** she called for her household servants and said to them, “See, my husband brought in a Hebrew man to us to humiliate us. He tried to go to bed with me, but I screamed loudly. **15** When he heard me raise my voice and scream, he left his outer garment beside me and ran outside.”

**16** So she laid his outer garment beside her until his master came home. **17** This is what she said to him: “That Hebrew slave you brought to us tried to humiliate me, **18** but when I raised my voice and screamed, he left his outer garment and ran outside.”

**19** When his master heard his wife say, “This is the way your slave treated me,” he became furious. **20** Joseph’s master took him and threw him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. So he was there in the prison.

**21** But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him **kindness (*chesed*)**. He granted him favor in the sight of the prison warden. **22** The warden put all the prisoners under Joseph’s care. He was in charge of whatever they were doing. **23** The warden did not concern himself with anything that was in Joseph’s care because the Lord was with him and whatever he was doing the Lord was making successful.

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	



# GENESIS 40

## *Joseph & Potiphar's Wife*

**1** After these things happened, the cupbearer to the king of Egypt and the royal baker offended their master, the king of Egypt. **2** Pharaoh was enraged with his two officials, the cupbearer and the baker, **3** so he imprisoned them in the house of the captain of the guard in the same facility where Joseph was confined. **4** The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be their attendant, and he served them.

They spent some time in custody. **5** Both of them, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream the same night. Each man's dream had its own meaning. **6** When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were looking depressed. **7** So he asked Pharaoh's officials, who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?" **8** They told him, "We both had dreams, but there is no one to interpret them." Joseph responded, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me."

**9** So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph: "In my dream, there was a vine in front of me. **10** On the vine there were three branches. As it budded, its blossoms opened and its clusters ripened into grapes. **11** Now Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, so I took the grapes, squeezed them into his cup, and put the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

**12** "This is its meaning," Joseph said to him. "The three branches represent three days. **13** In three more days Pharaoh will reinstate you and restore you to your office. You will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you did before when you were cupbearer. **14** But remember me when it goes well for you, and show me **kindness (chesed)**. Make mention of me to Pharaoh and bring me out of this prison, **15** for I really was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews and I have done nothing wrong here for which they should put me in a dungeon."

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	

# GENESIS 47

## *Israel Settles in Goshen*

**7** Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and presented him before Pharaoh. Jacob blessed Pharaoh. **8** Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How long have you lived?” **9** Jacob said to Pharaoh, “All the years of my travels are 130. All the years of my life have been few and painful; the years of my travels are not as long as those of my ancestors.” **10** Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from his presence.

**11** So Joseph settled his father and his brothers. He gave them territory in the land of Egypt, in the best region of the land, the land of Rameses, just as Pharaoh had commanded. **12** Joseph also provided food for his father, his brothers, and all his father’s household, according to the number of their little children.

**[Verses 13-26, details of Joseph’s Administration]**

**27** Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen, and they owned land there. They were fruitful and increased rapidly in number.

**28** Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years; the years of Jacob’s life were 147 in all. **29** The time for Israel to die approached, so he called for his son Joseph and said to him, “If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and show me **kindness (chesed)** and **faithfulness (emeth)**. Do not bury me in Egypt, **30** but when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place.” Joseph said, “I will do as you say.”

**31** Jacob said, “Swear to me that you will do so.” So Joseph gave him his word. Then Israel bowed down at the head of his bed.

19:19	24:49
20:13	32:10
21:23	39:21
24:12	40:14
24:14	47:29
24:27	

A grayscale illustration of Moses, an elderly man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a crown and a robe. He is holding two large, rectangular stone tablets (the Ten Commandments) high above his head with both hands. The tablets are covered in Hebrew text. The background is a dramatic, cloudy sky with a lightning bolt visible on the left side. The overall tone is solemn and powerful.

*Hesed in*  
**EXODUS**

*At Sinai*



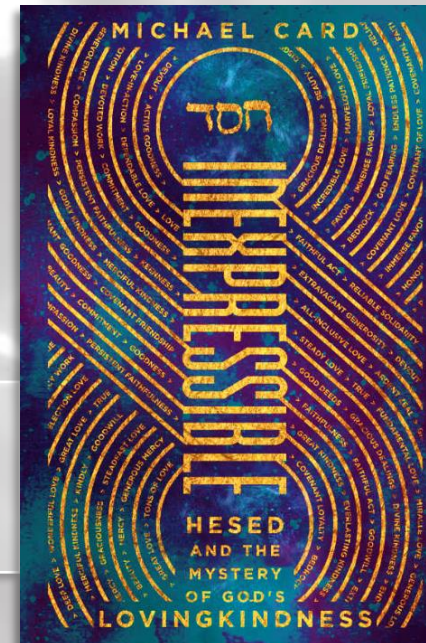
# HESED IN EXODUS

Hesed (חסד) appears 4 times in Exodus.

#	Vs
1	15:13
2	20:6
3	34:6
4	34:7

“In Exodus, where the word occurs only four times, [*hesed*] leaps ahead in meaning and is used by God himself to describe his character.”

*Inexpressible*, 10



# EXODUS 15

## *The Song of Moses*

**1** Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord. They said,

“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously,  
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

**2** The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

**3** The Lord is a warrior—  
the Lord is his name.

**4** The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has thrown into the sea,  
and his chosen officers were drowned in the Red Sea.

**5** The depths have covered them;  
they went down to the bottom like a stone.

**6** Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power;  
your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

**7** In the abundance of your majesty you have overthrown  
those who rise up against you.

You sent forth your wrath;  
it consumed them like stubble.

15:13

20:6

34:6

34:7

# EXODUS 15

## *The Song of Moses (cont.)*

- 8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters were piled up,  
the flowing water stood upright like a heap,  
and the deep waters were solidified in the heart of the sea.
- 9 The enemy said, 'I will chase, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil;  
my desire will be satisfied on them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them.'
- 10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them.  
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
- 11 Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you—majestic in holiness, fearful in praises, working wonders?
- 12 You stretched out your right hand,  
the earth swallowed them.
- 13 By **your loyal love (*chesed*)** you will lead the people whom you have redeemed;  
you will guide them by your strength to your holy dwelling place.
- 14 The nations will hear and tremble;  
anguish will seize the inhabitants of Philistia.

15:13

20:6

34:6

34:7



# EXODUS 15

## *The Song of Moses (cont.)*

- 15** Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified,  
trembling will seize the leaders of Moab,  
and the inhabitants of Canaan will shake.
- 16** Fear and dread will fall on them;  
by the greatness of your arm they will be as still as stone  
until your people pass by, O Lord,  
until the people whom you have bought pass by.
- 17** You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance,  
in the place you made for your residence, O Lord,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.
- 18** The Lord will reign forever and ever!
- 19** For the horses of Pharaoh came with his chariots and his footmen into the sea,  
and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea on them,  
but the Israelites walked on dry land in the middle of the sea.”

15:13

20:6

34:6

34:7

# EXODUS 20

## *The Ten Commandments*

CF. DEUTERONOMY 5

15:13

20:6

34:6

34:7

**1** God spoke all these words:

**2** “I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

**3** “You shall have no other gods before me.

**4** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water below. **5** You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous God, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children to the third and fourth generations of those who reject me, **6** and showing **covenant faithfulness (*chesed*)** to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**7** “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold guiltless anyone who takes his name in vain.

# EXODUS 34

## *God Appears to Moses*

**33:12** Moses said to the Lord, “See, you have been saying to me, ‘Bring this people up,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. But you said, ‘I know you by name, and also you have found favor in my sight.’ **13** Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your way, that I may know you, that I may continue to find favor in your sight. And see that this nation is your people.”

**14** And the Lord said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

**15** And Moses said to him, “If your presence does not go with us, do not take us up from here. **16** For how will it be known then that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not by your going with us, so that we will be distinguished, I and your people, from all the people who are on the face of the earth?”

**17** The Lord said to Moses, “I will do this thing also that you have requested, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”

**18** And Moses said, “Show me your glory.”

**19** And the Lord said, “I will make all my goodness pass before your face, and I will proclaim the Lord by name before you; I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious; I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy.” **20** But he added, “You cannot see my face, for no one can see me and live.” **21** The Lord said, “Here is a place by me; you will station yourself on a rock. **22** When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and will cover you with my hand while I pass by. **23** Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face must not be seen.”

15:13

20:6

34:6

34:7



# EXODUS 34

## *God Appears to Moses (cont.)*

**34:1** The Lord said to Moses, “Cut out two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you smashed. **2** Be prepared in the morning, and go up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and station yourself for me there on the top of the mountain. **3** No one is to come up with you; do not let anyone be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks or the herds may graze in front of that mountain.” **4** So Moses cut out two tablets of stone like the first; early in the morning he went up to Mount Sinai, just as the Lord had commanded him, and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

**5** The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the Lord by name. **6** The Lord passed by before him and proclaimed: “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in **loyal love** (*chesed*) and **faithfulness** (*emeth*), **7** keeping **loyal love** (*chesed*) for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. But he by no means leaves the guilty unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children and children’s children, to the third and fourth generation.”

**8** Moses quickly bowed to the ground and worshiped **9** and said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, let my Lord go among us, for we are a stiff-necked people; pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

15:13

20:6

34:6

34:7



*Hesed in*

**LEVITICUS, NUMBERS,  
& DEUTERONOMY**

*In the Wilderness*

# HESED IN LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, & DEUTERONOMY

Hesed (חסד) appears 6 more time in the rest of Torah.

#	Vs	#	Vs
1	Lev 20:17	4	Deut 5:10
2	Num 14:18	5	Deut 7:9
3	Num 14:19	6	Deut 7:12



# LEVITICUS 20

## *Sexual Prohibitions*

**17** “If a man has marital relations with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or of his mother, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a **disgrace** (*chessed*). They must be cut off in the sight of the children of their people. He has exposed his sister’s nakedness; he will bear his punishment for iniquity. **18** If a man goes to bed with a menstruating woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her fountain of blood and she has exposed the fountain of her blood, so both of them must be cut off from the midst of their people. **19** You must not expose the nakedness of your mother’s sister or your father’s sister, for such a person has exposed his own close relative. They must bear their punishment for iniquity. **20** If a man goes to bed with his aunt, he has exposed his uncle’s nakedness; they must bear responsibility for their sin, they will die childless. **21** If a man has marital relations with his brother’s wife, it is indecency. He has exposed his brother’s nakedness; they will be childless.

Lev 20:17

Deut 5:10

Num 14:18

Deut 7:9

Num 14:19

Deut 7:12

# NUMBERS 14

## *Unbelief & Punishment*

**1** Then all the community raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. **2** And all the Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had perished in this wilderness! **3** Why has the Lord brought us into this land only to be killed by the sword, that our wives and our children should become plunder? Wouldn’t it be better for us to return to Egypt?” **4** So they said to one another, “Let’s appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”

**5** Then Moses and Aaron fell down with their faces to the ground before the whole assembled community of the Israelites. **6** And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, two of those who had investigated the land, tore their garments. **7** They said to the whole community of the Israelites, “The land we passed through to investigate is an exceedingly good land. **8** If the Lord delights in us, then he will bring us into this land and give it to us—a land that is flowing with milk and honey. **9** Only do not rebel against the Lord, and do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection has turned aside from them, but the Lord is with us. Do not fear them!”

**10** However, the whole community threatened to stone them. But the glory of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the tent of meeting.

**11** The Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people despise me, and how long will they not believe in me, in spite of the signs that I have done among them? **12** I will strike them with the pestilence, and I will disinherit them—I will make you into a nation that is greater and mightier than they!”

Lev 20:17

Deut 5:10

Num 14:18

Deut 7:9

Num 14:19

Deut 7:12

# NUMBERS 14

## *Unbelief & Punishment (cont.)*

**13** Moses said to the Lord, “When the Egyptians hear it—for you brought up this people by your power from among them— **14** then they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, Lord, are among this people, that you, Lord, are seen face to face, that your cloud stands over them, and that you go before them by day in a pillar of cloud and in a pillar of fire by night. **15** If you kill this entire people at once, then the nations that have heard of your fame will say, **16** ‘Because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to them, he killed them in the wilderness.’ **17** So now, let the power of my Lord be great, just as you have said, **18** ‘The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in **loyal love (*chesed*)**, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children until the third and fourth generations.’ **19** Please forgive the iniquity of this people according to your great **loyal love (*chesed*)**, just as you have forgiven this people from Egypt even until now.”

**20** Then the Lord said, “I have forgiven them as you asked. **21** But truly, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. **22** For all the people have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have tempted me now these ten times, and have not obeyed me— **23** they will by no means see the land that I promised on oath to their fathers, nor will any of them who despised me see it— **24** Only my servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has followed me fully—I will bring him into the land where he had gone, and his descendants will possess it. **25** (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites were living in the valleys.) Tomorrow, turn and journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea.”

Lev 20:17

Deut 5:10

Num 14:18

Deut 7:9

Num 14:19

Deut 7:12



# DEUTERONOMY 5

## *The Ten Commandments*

CF. EXODUS 20

Lev 20:17

Deut 5:10

Num 14:18

Deut 7:9

Num 14:19

Deut 7:12

**6** “I am the Lord your God—he who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the place of slavery.

**7** “You must not have any other gods besides me.

**8** “You must not make for yourself an image of anything in heaven above, on earth below, or in the waters beneath. **9** You must not worship or serve them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God. I punish the sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons for the sin of the fathers who reject me, **10** but I show **covenant faithfulness (*chesed*)** to the thousands who choose me and keep my commandments.

**11** “You must not make use of the name of the Lord your God for worthless purposes, for the Lord will not exonerate anyone who abuses his name that way.

# DEUTERONOMY 7

## *The Relationship Between Yahweh & Israel*

7 It is not because you were more numerous than all the other peoples that the Lord favored and chose you—for in fact you were the least numerous of all peoples. 8 Rather it is because of his love for you and his faithfulness to the promise he solemnly vowed to your ancestors that the Lord brought you out with great power, redeeming you from the place of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 So realize that the Lord your God is the true God, the faithful God who keeps covenant **faithfully (*chesed*)** with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, 10 but who pays back those who hate him as they deserve and destroys them. He will not ignore those who hate him but will repay them as they deserve! 11 So keep the commandments, statutes, and ordinances that I today am commanding you to do.

12 If you obey these ordinances and are careful to do them, the Lord your God will **faithfully (*chesed*)** keep covenant with you as he promised your ancestors. 13 He will love and bless you, and make you numerous. He will bless you with many children, with the produce of your soil, your grain, your new wine, your olive oil, the offspring of your oxen, and the young of your flocks in the land that he promised your ancestors to give you. 14 You will be blessed beyond all peoples; there will be no barrenness among you or your livestock. 15 The Lord will protect you from all sickness, and you will not experience any of the terrible diseases that you knew in Egypt; instead he will inflict them on all those who hate you.

Lev 20:17

Deut 5:10

Num 14:18

Deut 7:9

Num 14:19

Deut 7:12



*Hesed in*  
**JOSHUA & JUDGES**

*In the Promised Land*



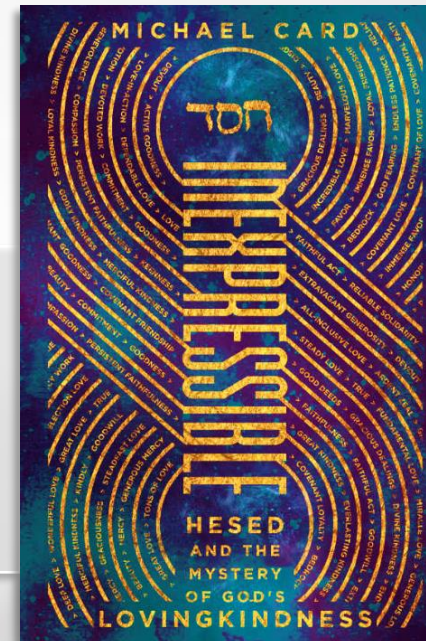
# HESED IN JOSHUA & JUDGES

Hesed (חסד) appears 5 times in Joshua and Judges.

#	Vs	#	Vs
1	Jos 2:12	4	Jdg 1:24
2	Jos 2:12	5	Jdg 8:35
3	Jos 2:14		

“In the vast majority of references in the historical books, *hesed* has to do with a reciprocal expectation between two human beings, most often in stories about David. The expectation is not, strictly speaking, part of a written covenant but rather an aspect of relationship, though covenants come from *hesed*.”

*Inexpressible*, 10



# JOSHUA 2

## *Spies Sent into Jericho*

**1** Joshua son of Nun sent two spies out from Shittim secretly and instructed them: “Find out what you can about the land, especially Jericho.” They stopped at the house of a prostitute named Rahab and spent the night there. **2** The king of Jericho received this report: “Note well! Israelite men have come here tonight to spy on the land.” **3** So the king of Jericho sent this order to Rahab: “Turn over the men who came to you—the ones who came to your house—for they have come to spy on the whole land!” **4** But the woman hid the two men and replied, “Yes, these men were clients of mine, but I didn’t know where they came from. **5** When it was time to shut the city gate for the night, the men left. I don’t know where they were heading. Chase after them quickly, for you have time to catch them!” **6** (Now she had taken them up to the roof and had hidden them in the stalks of flax she had spread out on the roof.) **7** Meanwhile, the king’s men tried to find them on the road to the Jordan River near the fords. The city gate was shut as soon as they set out in pursuit of them.

**8** Now before the spies went to sleep, Rahab went up to the roof. **9** She said to the men, “I know the Lord is handing this land over to you. We are absolutely terrified of you, and all who live in the land are cringing before you. **10** For we heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you left Egypt and how you annihilated the two Amorite kings, Sihon and Og, on the other side of the Jordan. **11** When we heard the news we lost our courage and no one could even breathe for fear of you. For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below! **12** So now, promise me this with an oath sworn in the Lord’s name. Because I have shown **allegiance (chesed)** to you, show **allegiance (chesed)** to my family. Give me a solemn pledge **13** that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and will rescue us from death.” **14** The men said to her, “If you die, may we die too! If you do not report what we’ve been up to, then we will show **unswerving (emeth) allegiance (chesed)** to you when the Lord hands the land over to us.”

Jos 2:12

Jdg 1:24

Jos 2:12

Jdg 8:35

Jos 2:14

# JUDGES 1

## *Partial Success in the Conquest of Canaan*

**22** When the men of Joseph attacked Bethel, the Lord was with them. **23** When the men of Joseph spied out Bethel (it used to be called Luz), **24** the spies spotted a man leaving the city. They said to him, “If you show us a secret entrance into the city, we will **reward (chesed)** you.” **25** He showed them a secret entrance into the city, and they put the city to the sword. But they let the man and his extended family leave safely. **26** He moved to Hittite country and built a city. He named it Luz, and it has kept that name to this very day.

**27** The men of Manasseh did not conquer Beth Shean, Taanach, or their surrounding towns. Nor did they conquer the people living in Dor, Ibleam, Megiddo or their surrounding towns. The Canaanites managed to remain in those areas. **28** Whenever Israel was strong militarily, they forced the Canaanites to do hard labor, but they never totally conquered them.

**[Verses 29-33, the men of Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, and Naphtali do the same]**

**34** The Amorites forced the people of Dan to live in the hill country. They did not allow them to live in the coastal plain. **35** The Amorites managed to remain in Har Heres, Aijalon, and Shaalbim. Whenever the tribe of Joseph was strong militarily, the Amorites were forced to do hard labor. **36** The border of Amorite territory ran from the Scorpion Ascent to Sela and on up.

Jos 2:12

Jdg 1:24

Jos 2:12

Jdg 8:35

Jos 2:14



# JUDGES 8

## *The Death of Gideon*

**22** The men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us—you, your son, and your grandson. For you have delivered us from Midian’s power.” **23** Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you.” **24** Gideon continued, “I would like to make one request. Each of you give me an earring from the plunder you have taken.” (The Midianites had gold earrings because they were Ishmaelites.) **25** They said, “We are happy to give you earrings.” So they spread out a garment, and each one threw an earring from his plunder onto it. **26** The total weight of the gold earrings he requested came to 1,700 gold shekels. This was in addition to the crescent-shaped ornaments, jewelry, purple clothing worn by the Midianite kings, and the necklaces on the camels. **27** Gideon used all this to make an ephod, which he put in his hometown of Ophrah. All the Israelites prostituted themselves to it by worshiping it there. It became a snare to Gideon and his family.

**28** The Israelites humiliated Midian; the Midianites’ fighting spirit was broken. The land had rest for forty years during Gideon’s time. **29** Then Jerub Baal son of Joash went home and settled down. **30** Gideon fathered seventy sons through his many wives. **31** His concubine, who lived in Shechem, also gave him a son, whom he named Abimelech. **32** Gideon son of Joash died at a very old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash located in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

**33** After Gideon died, the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They made Baal Berith their god. **34** The Israelites did not remain true to the Lord their God, who had delivered them from all the enemies who lived around them. **35** They did not treat the family of Jerub Baal (that is, Gideon) **fairly (*chesed*)** in return for all the good he had done for Israel.

Jos 2:12

Jdg 1:24

Jos 2:12

Jdg 8:35

Jos 2:14



*Hesed in*  
**RUTH**

*In the Most Unexpected of Places*

# HESED IN RUTH

Hesed (חסד) appears 3 times in Ruth, but the principles of hesed are prevalent throughout its entirety.

#	Vs
1	1:8
2	2:20
3	3:10



# RUTH 1

## *Ruth Follows Naomi*

1:8

2:20

3:10

**7** Now as she and her two daughters-in-law began to leave the place where she had been living to return to the land of Judah, **8** Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Listen to me! Each of you should return to your mother’s home. May the Lord show you the same kind of **devotion** (*chesed*) that you have shown to your deceased husbands and to me. **9** May the Lord enable each of you to find security in the home of a new husband.” Then she kissed them goodbye, and they wept loudly. **10** But they said to her, “No! We will return with you to your people.”

**11** But Naomi replied, “Go back home, my daughters! There is no reason for you to return to Judah with me. I am no longer capable of giving birth to sons who might become your husbands! **12** Go back home, my daughters! For I am too old to get married again. Even if I thought that there was hope that I could get married tonight and conceive sons, **13** surely you would not want to wait until they were old enough to marry. Surely you would not remain unmarried all that time! No, my daughters, you must not return with me. For my intense suffering is too much for you to bear. For the Lord is afflicting me!”

**14** Again they wept loudly. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung tightly to her. **15** So Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law back home!”

**16** But Ruth replied, “Stop urging me to abandon you! For wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live. Your people will become my people, and your God will become my God. **17** Wherever you die, I will die—and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I do not keep my promise! Only death will be able to separate me from you!”

**18** When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped trying to dissuade her. **19** So the two of them journeyed together until they arrived in Bethlehem.

# RUTH 2

## *Ruth Meets Boaz*

1:8

2:20

3:10

**1** Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side of the family named Boaz. He was a wealthy, prominent man from the clan of Elimelech. **2** One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields so I can gather grain behind whoever permits me to do so." Naomi replied, "You may go, my daughter." **3** So Ruth went and gathered grain in the fields behind the harvesters. Now she just happened to end up in the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

**4** Now at that very moment, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "May the Lord be with you!" They replied, "May the Lord bless you!" **5** Boaz asked his servant in charge of the harvesters, "To whom does this young woman belong?" **6** The servant in charge of the harvesters replied, "She's the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the region of Moab." **7** She asked, "May I follow the harvesters and gather grain among the bundles?" Since she arrived she has been working hard from this morning until now—except for sitting in the resting hut a short time."

**8** So Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my dear! Do not leave to gather grain in another field. You need not go beyond the limits of this field. You may go along beside my female workers. **9** Take note of the field where the men are harvesting and follow behind with the female workers. I will tell the men to leave you alone. When you are thirsty, you may go to the water jars and drink some of the water the servants draw."

**10** Ruth knelt before him with her forehead to the ground and said to him, "Why are you so kind and so attentive to me, even though I am a foreigner?" **11** Boaz replied to her, "I have been given a full report of all that you have done for your mother-in-law following the death of your husband—how you left your father and your mother, as well as your homeland, and came to live among people you did not know previously. **12** May the Lord reward your efforts! May your acts of kindness be repaid fully by the Lord God of Israel, from whom you have sought protection." **13** She said, "You really are being kind to me, sir, for you have reassured and encouraged me, your servant, even though I will never be like one of your servants."

# RUTH 2

## *Ruth Meets Boaz (cont.)*

1:8

2:20

3:10

**14** Later during the mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and have some food! Dip your bread in the vinegar.” So she sat down beside the harvesters. Then he handed her some roasted grain. She ate until she was full and saved the rest. **15** When she got up to gather grain, Boaz told his male servants, “Let her gather grain even among the bundles. Don’t chase her off! **16** Make sure you pull out ears of grain for her and drop them so she can gather them up. Don’t tell her not to!” **17** So she gathered grain in the field until evening. When she threshed what she had gathered, it came to about thirty pounds of barley.

**18** She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much grain she had gathered. Then Ruth gave her the roasted grain she had saved from mealtime. **19** Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you gather grain today? Where did you work? May the one who took notice of you be rewarded!” So Ruth told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked. She said, “The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.” **20** Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be rewarded by the Lord because he has shown **loyalty (*chesed*)** to the living on behalf of the dead!” Then Naomi said to her, “This man is a close relative of ours; he is our guardian.” **21** Ruth the Moabite replied, “He even told me, ‘You may go along beside my servants until they have finished gathering all my harvest!’” **22** Naomi then said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, “It is good, my daughter, that you should go out to work with his female servants. That way you will not be harmed, which could happen in another field.” **23** So Ruth worked beside Boaz’s female servants, gathering grain until the end of the barley harvest as well as the wheat harvest. After that she stayed home with her mother-in-law.



# RUTH 3

## *Ruth Visits Boaz*

1:8

2:20

3:10

**1** At that time, Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, “My daughter, I must find a home for you so you will be secure. **2** Now Boaz, with whose female servants you worked, is our close relative. Look, tonight he is winnowing barley at the threshing floor. **3** So bathe yourself, rub on some perfumed oil, and get dressed up. Then go down to the threshing floor. But don’t let the man know you’re there until he finishes his meal. **4** When he gets ready to go to sleep, take careful notice of the place where he lies down. Then go, uncover his legs, and lie down beside him. He will tell you what you should do.” **5** Ruth replied to Naomi, “I will do everything you have told me to do.”

**6** So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had instructed her to do. **7** When Boaz had finished his meal and was feeling satisfied, he lay down to sleep at the far end of the grain heap. Then Ruth crept up quietly, uncovered his legs, and lay down beside him. **8** In the middle of the night he was startled and turned over. Now he saw a woman lying beside him! **9** He said, “Who are you?” She replied, “I am Ruth, your servant. Marry your servant, for you are a guardian of the family interests.” **10** He said, “May you be rewarded by the Lord, my dear! This act of **devotion** (*chesed*) is greater than what you did before. For you have not sought to marry one of the young men, whether rich or poor. **11** Now, my dear, don’t worry! I intend to do for you everything you propose, for everyone in the village knows that you are a worthy woman.”



*Hesed in*  
**1 SAMUEL**

*During the Reign of Saul*

# HESED IN 1 SAMUEL

Hesed (חסד) appears 4 times in 1 Samuel.

#	Vs
1	15:6
2	20:8
3	20:14
4	20:15



# 1 SAMUEL 15

## *Saul Rejected as King*

**1** Then Samuel said to Saul, “I was the one the Lord sent to anoint you as king over his people Israel. Now listen to what the Lord says. **2** Here is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies has said: ‘I carefully observed how the Amalekites opposed Israel along the way when Israel came up from Egypt. **3** So go now and strike down the Amalekites. Destroy everything they have. Don’t spare them. Put them to death—man, woman, child, infant, ox, sheep, camel, and donkey alike.’”

**4** So Saul assembled the army and mustered them at Telaim. There were 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah. **5** Saul proceeded to the city of Amalek, where he set an ambush in the wadi. **6** Saul said to the Kenites, “Go on and leave! Go down from among the Amalekites. Otherwise I will sweep you away with them. After all, you were **kind (chesed)** to all the Israelites when they came up from Egypt.” So the Kenites withdrew from among the Amalekites.

**7** Then Saul struck down the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, which is next to Egypt. **8** He captured King Agag of the Amalekites alive, but he executed all Agag’s people with the sword. **9** However, Saul and the army spared Agag, along with the best of the flock, the cattle, the fatlings, and the lambs, as well as everything else that was of value. They were not willing to slaughter them. But they did slaughter everything that was despised and worthless.

**10** Then the Lord’s message came to Samuel: **11** “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned away from me and has not done what I told him to do.” Samuel became angry and he cried out to the Lord all that night.

15:6

20:8

20:14

20:15

# 1 SAMUEL 15

## *Saul Rejected as King (cont.)*

**[Verses 12-19, Samuel confronts Saul]**

**20** Then Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the Lord! I went on the campaign the Lord sent me on. I brought back King Agag of the Amalekites after exterminating the Amalekites. **21** But the army took from the plunder some of the sheep and cattle—the best of what was to be slaughtered—to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”

**22** Then Samuel said,

“Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices  
as much as he does in obedience?

Certainly, obedience is better than sacrifice;  
paying attention is better than the fat of rams.

**23** For rebellion is like the sin of divination,  
and presumption is like the evil of idolatry.

Because you have rejected the Lord’s orders,  
he has rejected you from being king.”

15:6

20:8

20:14

20:15

# 1 SAMUEL 20

## *David & Jonathan*

**5** David said to Jonathan, “Tomorrow is the new moon, and I am certainly expected to join the king for a meal. You must send me away so I can hide in the field until the third evening from now. **6** If your father happens to miss me, you should say, ‘David urgently requested me to let him go to his town Bethlehem, for there is an annual sacrifice there for his entire family.’ **7** If he should then say, ‘That’s fine,’ then your servant is safe. But if he becomes very angry, be assured that he has decided to harm me. **8** You must be **loyal (chesed)** to your servant, for you have made a covenant with your servant in the Lord’s name. If I am guilty, you yourself kill me! Why bother taking me to your father?”

**9** Jonathan said, “Far be it from you to suggest this! If I were at all aware that my father had decided to harm you, wouldn’t I tell you about it?” **10** David said to Jonathan, “Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?” **11** Jonathan said to David, “Come on. Let’s go out to the field.”

When the two of them had gone out into the field, **12** Jonathan said to David, “The Lord God of Israel is my witness! I will feel out my father about this time the day after tomorrow. If he is favorably inclined toward David, will I not then send word to you and let you know? **13** But if my father intends to do you harm, may the Lord do all this and more to Jonathan, if I don’t let you know and send word to you, so you can go safely on your way. May the Lord be with you, as he was with my father. **14** While I am still alive, extend to me the **loyalty (chesed)** of the Lord, or else I will die. **15** Don’t ever cut off your **loyalty (chesed)** to my family, not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth ...

15:6

20:8

20:14

20:15



# 1 SAMUEL 20

## *David & Jonathan (cont.)*

... **16** and called David's enemies to account." So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David. **17** Jonathan once again took an oath with David, because he loved him. In fact Jonathan loved him as much as he did his own life. **18** Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed, for your seat will be empty. **19** On the third day you should go down quickly and come to the place where you hid yourself the day this all started. Stay near the stone Ezel. **20** I will shoot three arrows near it, as though I were shooting at a target. **21** When I send a boy after them, I will say, 'Go and find the arrows.' If I say to the boy, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; get them,' then come back. For as surely as the Lord lives, you will be safe and there will be no problem. **22** But if I say to the boy, 'Look, the arrows are on the other side of you,' then get away. For in that case the Lord has sent you away. **23** With regard to the matter that you and I discussed, the Lord is the witness between us forever."

15:6

20:8

20:14

20:15



*Hesed in*  
**2 SAMUEL**

*During the Reign of David*

# HESED IN 2 SAMUEL

Hesed (חסד) appears 12 times in 2 Samuel, more than in any book other than the Psalms.

#	Vs	#	Vs
1	2:5	7	9:7
2	2:6	8	10:2
3	3:8	9	10:2
4	7:15	10	15:20
5	9:1	11	16:17
6	9:3	12	22:51



# 2 SAMUEL 2

## *David Anointed King*

**1** Afterward David inquired of the Lord, “Should I go up to one of the cities of Judah?” The Lord told him, “Go up.” David asked, “Where should I go?” The Lord replied, “To Hebron.” **2** So David went up, along with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite and Abigail, formerly the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. **3** David also brought along the men who were with him, each with his family. They settled in the cities of Hebron. **4** The men of Judah came and there they anointed David as king over the people of Judah.

David was told, “The people of Jabesh Gilead are the ones who buried Saul.” **5** So David sent messengers to the people of Jabesh Gilead and told them, “May you be blessed by the Lord because you have shown this **kindness (*chesed*)** to your lord Saul by burying him. **6** Now may the Lord show you true (*emeth*) **kindness (*chesed*)!** I also will reward you, because you have done this deed. **7** Now be courageous and prove to be valiant warriors, for your lord Saul is dead. The people of Judah have anointed me as king over them.”

2:5

9:7

2:6

10:2

3:8

10:2

7:15

15:20

9:1

16:17

9:3

22:51

# 2 SAMUEL 3

## *Abner & Ish Bosheth*

**6** As the war continued between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was becoming more influential in the house of Saul. **7** Now Saul had a concubine named Rizpah daughter of Aiah. Ish Bosheth said to Abner, “Why did you sleep with my father’s concubine?”

**8** These words of Ish Bosheth really angered Abner and he said, “Am I the head of a dog that belongs to Judah? This very day I am demonstrating **loyalty** (*chesed*) to the house of Saul your father and to his relatives and his friends! I have not betrayed you into the hand of David. Yet you have accused me of sinning with this woman today! **9** God will severely judge Abner if I do not do for David exactly what the Lord has promised him, **10** namely, to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah all the way from Dan to Beer Sheba!” **11** Ish Bosheth was unable to answer Abner with even a single word because he was afraid of him.

**12** Then Abner sent messengers to David saying, “To whom does the land belong? Make an agreement with me, and I will do whatever I can to cause all Israel to turn to you.” **13** So David said, “Good! I will make an agreement with you. I ask only one thing from you. You will not see my face unless you bring Saul’s daughter Michal when you come to visit me.”

2:5	9:7
2:6	10:2
3:8	10:2
7:15	15:20
9:1	16:17
9:3	22:51

# 2 SAMUEL 7

## *The Davidic Covenant*

CF. 1 CHRONICLES 17

**1** The king settled into his palace, for the Lord gave him relief from all his enemies on all sides. **2** The king said to Nathan the prophet, “Look! I am living in a palace made from cedar, while the ark of God sits in the middle of a tent.” **3** Nathan replied to the king, “You should go and do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.” **4** That night the Lord’s message came to Nathan, **5** “Go, tell my servant David, “This is what the Lord has said: Do you really intend to build a house for me to live in? **6** I have not lived in a house from the time I brought the Israelites up from Egypt to the present day. Instead, I was traveling with them and living in a tent. **7** Wherever I moved among all the Israelites, I did not say to any of their leaders whom I appointed to care for my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house made from cedar?””

**8** “So now, say this to my servant David, “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies has said: I took you from the pasture and from your work as a shepherd to make you leader of my people Israel. **9** I was with you wherever you went, and I defeated all your enemies before you. Now I will make you as famous as the great men of the earth. **10** I will establish a place for my people Israel and settle them there; they will live there and not be disturbed anymore. Violent men will not oppress them again, as they did in the beginning **11** and during the time when I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. Instead, I will give you relief from all your enemies. The Lord declares to you that he himself will build a dynastic house for you. **12** When the time comes for you to die, I will raise up your descendant, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He will build a house for my name, and I will make his dynasty permanent. **14** I will become his father and he will become my son. When he sins, I will correct him with the rod of men and with wounds inflicted by human beings. **15** But my **loyal love (*chesed*)** will not be removed from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16** Your house and your kingdom will stand before me permanently; your dynasty will be permanent.” **17** Nathan told David all these words that were revealed to him.

2:5	9:7
2:6	10:2
3:8	10:2
7:15	15:20
9:1	16:17
9:3	22:51



# 2 SAMUEL 9

## David & Mephibosheth

**1** Then David asked, “Is anyone still left from the family of Saul, so that I may extend **kindness (chesed)** to him for the sake of Jonathan?”

**2** Now there was a servant from Saul’s house named Ziba, so he was summoned to David. The king asked him, “Are you Ziba?” He replied, “At your service.” **3** The king asked, “Is there not someone left from Saul’s family that I may extend God’s **kindness (chesed)** to him?” Ziba said to the king, “One of Jonathan’s sons is left; both of his feet are crippled.” **4** The king asked him, “Where is he?” Ziba told the king, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.”

**5** So King David had him brought from the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar. **6** When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed low with his face toward the ground. David said, “Mephibosheth?” He replied, “Yes, at your service.”

**7** David said to him, “Don’t be afraid, because I will certainly extend **kindness (chesed)** to you for the sake of Jonathan your father. I will give back to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will be a regular guest at my table.” **8** Then Mephibosheth bowed and said, “Of what importance am I, your servant, that you show regard for a dead dog like me?”

**9** Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s attendant, and said to him, “Everything that belonged to Saul and to his entire house I hereby give to your master’s grandson. **10** You will cultivate the land for him—you and your sons and your servants. You will bring its produce and it will be food for your master’s grandson to eat. But Mephibosheth, your master’s grandson, will be a regular guest at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

**11** Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do everything that my lord the king has instructed his servant to do.” So Mephibosheth was a regular guest at David’s table, just as though he were one of the king’s sons.

2:5	9:7
2:6	10:2
3:8	10:2
7:15	15:20
9:1	16:17
9:3	22:51

# 2 SAMUEL 10

## *David & the Ammonites*

CF. 1 CHRONICLES 19

**1** Later the king of the Ammonites died and his son Hanun succeeded him. **2** David said, “I will express my **loyalty (*chesed*)** to Hanun son of Nahash just as his father was **loyal (*chesed*)** to me.” So David sent his servants with a message expressing sympathy over his father’s death. When David’s servants entered the land of the Ammonites, **3** the Ammonite officials said to their lord Hanun, “Do you really think David is trying to honor your father by sending these messengers to express his sympathy? No, David has sent his servants to you to get information about the city and spy on it so they can overthrow it!”

**4** So Hanun seized David’s servants and shaved off half of each one’s beard. He cut the lower part of their robes off so that their buttocks were exposed, and then sent them away. **5** Messengers told David what had happened, so he sent them to the men who were thoroughly humiliated. The king said, “Stay in Jericho until your beards have grown again; then you may come back.”

**6** When the Ammonites realized that David was disgusted with them, they sent and hired 20,000 foot soldiers from Aram Beth Rehob and Aram Zobah, in addition to 1,000 men from the king of Maacah and 12,000 men from Ish Tob.

**[Verses 7-14, the Ammonites & Israelites go into battle with one another]**

**15** When the Arameans realized that they had been defeated by Israel, they consolidated their forces. **16** Then Hadadezer sent for Arameans from beyond the Euphrates River, and they came to Helam. Shobach, the general in command of Hadadezer’s army, led them.

2:5	9:7
2:6	10:2
3:8	10:2
7:15	15:20
9:1	16:17
9:3	22:51

# 2 SAMUEL 15

## *David Flees from Absalom*

**13** Then a messenger came to David and reported, “The men of Israel are loyal to Absalom!” **14** So David said to all his servants who were with him in Jerusalem, “Come on! Let’s escape! Otherwise no one will be delivered from Absalom! Go immediately, or else he will quickly overtake us and bring disaster on us and kill the city’s residents with the sword.” **15** The king’s servants replied to the king, “We will do whatever our lord the king decides.”

**16** So the king and all the members of his royal court set out on foot, though the king left behind ten concubines to attend to the palace. **17** The king and all the people set out on foot, pausing at a spot some distance away. **18** All his servants were leaving with him, along with all the Kerethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites—some 600 men who had come on foot from Gath. They were leaving with the king.

**19** Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why should you come with us? Go back and stay with the new king, for you are a foreigner and an exile from your own country. **20** It seems as if you arrived just yesterday. Today should I make you wander around by going with us? I go where I must go. But as for you, go back and take your men with you. May **genuine (emeth) loyal love (chesed)** protect you!”

**21** But Ittai replied to the king, “As surely as the Lord lives and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king is, whether it means death or life, there I will be as well!” **22** So David said to Ittai, “Come along then.” So Ittai the Gittite went along, accompanied by all his men and all the dependents who were with him.

**23** All the land was weeping loudly as all these people were leaving. As the king was crossing over the Kidron Valley, all the people were leaving on the road that leads to the desert. **24** Zadok and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. When they positioned the ark of God, Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city.

2:5	9:7
2:6	10:2
3:8	10:2
7:15	15:20
9:1	16:17
9:3	22:51



# 2 SAMUEL 16

## *Hushai & Ahithophel*

**15** Now when Absalom and all the men of Israel arrived in Jerusalem, Ahithophel was with him. **16** When David's friend Hushai the Arkite came to Absalom, Hushai said to him, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

**17** Absalom said to Hushai, "Do you call this **loyalty** (*chesed*) to your friend? Why didn't you go with your friend?" **18** Hushai replied to Absalom, "No, I will be loyal to the one whom the Lord, these people, and all the men of Israel have chosen. **19** Moreover, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? Just as I served your father, so I will serve you."

**20** Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give us your advice. What should we do?" **21** Ahithophel replied to Absalom, "Sleep with your father's concubines whom he left to care for the palace. All Israel will hear that you have made yourself repulsive to your father. Then your followers will be motivated to support you." **22** So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom slept with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

**23** In those days Ahithophel's advice was considered as valuable as a prophetic revelation. Both David and Absalom highly regarded the advice of Ahithophel.

2:5	9:7
2:6	10:2
3:8	10:2
7:15	15:20
9:1	16:17
9:3	22:51

# 2 SAMUEL 22

## *David Sings to Yahweh*

**1** David sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord rescued him from the power of all his enemies, including Saul. **2** He said:

“The Lord is my high ridge, my stronghold, my deliverer.

**3** My God is my rocky summit where I take shelter,  
my shield, the horn that saves me, my stronghold,  
my refuge, my savior. You save me from violence!

**4** I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,  
and I was delivered from my enemies.

**[Verses 5-49, David continues to praise God for His victories]**

**50** So I will give you thanks, O Lord, before the nations!  
I will sing praises to you.

**51** He gives his king magnificent victories;  
he is **faithful** (*chesed*) to his chosen ruler,  
to David and to his descendants forever!”

2:5	9:7
2:6	10:2
3:8	10:2
7:15	15:20
9:1	16:17
9:3	22:51



*Hesed in*  
**KINGS**

*In the United & Divided Monarchies*



# HESED IN KINGS

Hesed (חסד) appears 5 times in 1 Kings;  
it doesn't appear in 2 Kings.

#	Vs
1	1 Kg 2:7
2	1 Kg 3:6
3	1 Kg 3:6
4	1 Kg 8:23
5	1 Kg 20:31

# 1 KINGS 2

## *The Death of David*

**1** When David was close to death, he told Solomon his son: **2** “I am about to die. Be strong and become a man! **3** Do the job the Lord your God has assigned you by following his instructions and obeying his rules, commandments, regulations, and laws as written in the law of Moses. Then you will succeed in all you do and seek to accomplish, **4** and the Lord will fulfill his promise to me, ‘If your descendants watch their step and live faithfully in my presence with all their heart and being, then,’ he promised, ‘you will not fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’

**5** “You know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—how he murdered two commanders of the Israelite armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. During peacetime he struck them down as if in battle; when he shed their blood, he stained the belt on his waist and the sandals on his feet. **6** Do to him what you think is appropriate, but don’t let him live long and die a peaceful death.

**7** “Treat **fairly** (*chesed*) the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and provide for their needs, because they helped me when I had to flee from your brother Absalom.

**8** “Note well, you still have to contend with Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who tried to call down upon me a horrible judgment when I went to Mahanaim. He came down and met me at the Jordan, and I solemnly promised him by the Lord, ‘I will not strike you down with the sword.’ **9** But now don’t treat him as if he were innocent. You are a wise man and you know how to handle him; make sure he has a bloody death.”

**10** Then David passed away and was buried in the City of David. **11** David reigned over Israel forty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years, and in Jerusalem thirty-three years.

1 Kg 2:7

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 8:23

1 Kg 20:31

# 1 KINGS 3

## *Solomon Prays for Wisdom*

**1** Solomon made an alliance by marriage with Pharaoh, king of Egypt; he married Pharaoh's daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he could finish building his residence and the temple of the Lord and the wall around Jerusalem. **2** Now the people were offering sacrifices at the high places, because in those days a temple had not yet been built to honor the Lord. **3** Solomon demonstrated his loyalty to the Lord by following the practices of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

**4** The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for it had the most prominent of the high places. Solomon would offer up 1,000 burnt sacrifices on the altar there. **5** One night in Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, "Tell me what I should give you." **6** Solomon replied, "You demonstrated great **loyalty (chesed)** to your servant, my father David, as he served you faithfully, properly, and sincerely. You have maintained this great **loyalty (chesed)** to this day by allowing his son to sit on his throne. **7** Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in my father David's place, even though I am only a young man and am inexperienced. **8** Your servant stands among your chosen people; they are a great nation that is too numerous to count or number. **9** So give your servant a discerning mind so he can make judicial decisions for your people and distinguish right from wrong. Otherwise no one is able to make judicial decisions for this great nation of yours." **10** The Lord was pleased that Solomon made this request. **11** God said to him, "Because you asked for the ability to make wise judicial decisions, and not for long life, or riches, or vengeance on your enemies, **12** I grant your request and give you a wise and discerning mind superior to that of anyone who has preceded or will succeed you. **13** Furthermore, I am giving you what you did not request—riches and honor so that you will be the greatest king of your generation. **14** If you follow my instructions by obeying my rules and regulations, just as your father David did, then I will grant you long life." **15** Solomon then woke up and realized it was a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant, offered up burnt sacrifices, presented peace offerings, and held a feast for all his servants.

1 Kg 2:7

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 8:23

1 Kg 20:31



# 1 KINGS 8

## *The Dedication of the Temple*

**6** The priests brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its assigned place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, in the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. **7** The cherubim's wings extended over the place where the ark sat; the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. **8** The poles were so long their ends were visible from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from beyond that point. They have remained there to this very day. **9** There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets Moses had placed there in Horeb. It was there that the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after he brought them out of the land of Egypt. **10** Once the priests left the Holy Place, a cloud filled the Lord's temple. **11** The priests could not carry out their duties because of the cloud; the Lord's glory filled his temple.

**12** Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he lives in thick darkness. **13** O Lord, truly I have built a lofty temple for you, a place where you can live permanently." **14** Then the king turned around and pronounced a blessing over the whole Israelite assembly as they stood there. **15** He said, "The Lord God of Israel is worthy of praise because he has fulfilled what he promised my father David. **16** He told David, 'Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from all the tribes of Israel to build a temple in which to live. But I have chosen David to lead my people Israel.' **17** Now my father David had a strong desire to build a temple to honor the Lord God of Israel. **18** The Lord told my father David, 'It is right for you to have a strong desire to build a temple to honor me. **19** But you will not build the temple; your very own son will build the temple for my honor.' **20** The Lord has kept the promise he made. I have taken my father David's place and have occupied the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised. I have built this temple for the honor of the Lord God of Israel **21** and set up in it a place for the ark containing the covenant the Lord made with our ancestors when he brought them out of the land of Egypt."

1 Kg 2:7

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 8:23

1 Kg 20:31

# 1 KINGS 8

CF. 2 CHRONICLES 5

## *The Dedication of the Temple (cont.)*

1 Kg 2:7

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 8:23

1 Kg 20:31

**22** Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward the sky. **23** He prayed: “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no god like you in heaven above or on earth below! You maintain **covenantal loyalty** (*chesed*) to your servants who obey you with sincerity. **24** You have kept your word to your servant, my father David; this very day you have fulfilled what you promised. **25** Now, O Lord, God of Israel, keep the promise you made to your servant, my father David, when you said, ‘You will never fail to have a successor ruling before me on the throne of Israel, provided that your descendants watch their step and serve me as you have done.’ **26** Now, O God of Israel, may the promise you made to your servant, my father David, be realized.

**27** “God does not really live on the earth! Look, if the sky and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this temple I have built! **28** But respond favorably to your servant’s prayer and his request for help, O Lord my God. Answer the desperate prayer your servant is presenting to you today. **29** Night and day may you watch over this temple, the place where you promised you would live. May you answer your servant’s prayer for this place. **30** Respond to the request of your servant and your people Israel for this place. Hear from inside your heavenly dwelling place and respond favorably.

# 1 KINGS 20

## *Ahab's Victory Over Ben Hadad*

**26** In the spring Ben Hadad mustered the Syrian army and marched to Aphek to fight Israel. **27** When the Israelites had mustered and received their supplies, they marched out to face them in battle. When the Israelites deployed opposite them, they were like two small flocks of goats, but the Syrians filled the land. **28** The prophet visited the king of Israel and said, “This is what the Lord has said: ‘Because the Syrians said, “The Lord is a god of the mountains and not a god of the valleys,” I will deliver this entire huge army into to your control. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’

**29** The armies were deployed opposite each other for seven days. On the seventh day the battle began, and the Israelites killed 100,000 Syrian foot soldiers in one day. **30** The remaining 27,000 ran to Aphek and went into the city, but the wall fell on them. Now Ben Hadad ran into the city and hid in an inner room. **31** His advisers said to him, “Look, we have heard that the kings of the Israelite dynasty **are kind (*chesed*)**. Allow us to put sackcloth around our waists and ropes on our heads and surrender to the king of Israel. Maybe he will spare our lives.” **32** So they put sackcloth around their waists and ropes on their heads and went to the king of Israel. They said, “Your servant Ben Hadad says, ‘Please let me live!’” Ahab replied, “Is he still alive? He is my brother.” **33** The men took this as a good omen and quickly accepted his offer, saying, “Ben Hadad is your brother.” Ahab then said, “Go, get him.” So Ben Hadad came out to him, and Ahab pulled him up into his chariot. **34** Ben Hadad said, “I will return the cities my father took from your father. You may set up markets in Damascus, just as my father did in Samaria.” Ahab then said, “I want to make a treaty with you before I dismiss you.” So he made a treaty with him and then dismissed him.

1 Kg 2:7

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 3:6

1 Kg 8:23

1 Kg 20:31





*Hesed in*  
**1 CHRONICLES**

*During the Reign of David*

# HESED IN 1 CHRONICLES

Hesed (חסד) appears 5 times in 1 Chronicles.

#	Vs
1	16:34
2	16:41
3	17:13
4	19:2
5	19:2

# 1 CHRONICLES 16

## *David's Song of Thanksgiving*

**1** They brought the ark of God and put it in the middle of the tent David had pitched for it. Then they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God. **2** When David finished offering burnt sacrifices and peace offerings, he pronounced a blessing over the people in the Lord's name. **3** He then handed out to each Israelite man and woman a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. **4** He appointed some of the Levites to serve before the ark of the Lord, to offer prayers, songs of thanks, and hymns to the Lord God of Israel. **5** Asaph was the leader and Zechariah second-in-command, followed by Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel. They were to play stringed instruments, Asaph was to sound the cymbals, **6** and the priests Benaiah and Jahaziel were to blow trumpets regularly before the ark of God's covenant.

**7** That day David first gave to Asaph and his colleagues this song of thanks to the Lord.

**8** Give thanks to the Lord! Call on his name!

Make known his accomplishments among the nations.

**9** Sing to him! Make music to him!

Tell about all his miraculous deeds.

**10** Boast about his holy name.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**11** Seek the Lord and the strength he gives.

Seek his presence continually!

**[Verses 12-27, David's song continues]**

16:34

16:41

17:13

19:2

19:2



# 1 CHRONICLES 16

## *David's Song of Thanksgiving (cont.)*

- 28** Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the nations,  
ascribe to the Lord splendor and strength!
- 29** Ascribe to the Lord the splendor he deserves!  
Bring an offering and enter his presence!  
Worship the Lord in holy attire!
- 30** Tremble before him, all the earth!  
The world is established, it cannot be moved.
- 31** Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be happy!  
Let the nations say, "The Lord reigns!"
- 32** Let the sea and everything in it shout!  
Let the fields and everything in them celebrate!
- 33** Then let the trees of the forest shout with joy before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth!
- 34** **Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good  
and his loyal love (*chesed*) endures.**
- 35** Say this prayer: "Deliver us, O God who delivers us!  
Gather us! Rescue us from the nations!  
Then we will give thanks to your holy name,  
and boast about your praiseworthy deeds."
- 36** May the Lord God of Israel be praised,  
in the future and forevermore.

Then all the people said, "We agree! Praise the Lord."

16:34

16:41

17:13

19:2

19:2

# 1 CHRONICLES 16

## *David's Song of Thanksgiving (cont.)*

**37** David left Asaph and his colleagues there before the ark of the Lord's covenant to serve before the ark regularly and fulfill each day's requirements, **38** including Obed-Edom and sixty-eight colleagues. Obed-Edom son of Jeduthun and Hosah were gatekeepers. **39** Zadok the priest and his fellow priests served before the Lord's tabernacle at the worship center in Gibeon, **40** regularly offering burnt sacrifices to the Lord on the altar for burnt sacrifice, morning and evening, according to what is prescribed in the law of the Lord which he charged Israel to observe. **41** Joining them were Heman, Jeduthun, and the rest of those chosen and designated by name to give thanks to the Lord. **(For his loyal love (chesed) endures!)** **42** Heman and Jeduthun were in charge of the music, including the trumpets, cymbals, and the other musical instruments used in praising God. The sons of Jeduthun guarded the entrance.

**43** Then all the people returned to their homes, and David went to pronounce a blessing on his family.

16:34

16:41

17:13

19:2

19:2

# 1 CHRONICLES 17

## *The Davidic Covenant*

CF. 2 SAMUEL 7

16:34

16:41

17:13

19:2

19:2

**1** When David had settled into his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Look, I am living in a palace made from cedar, while the ark of the Lord’s covenant is under a tent.” **2** Nathan said to David, “You should do whatever you have in mind, for God is with you.”

**3** That night God told Nathan, **4** “Go, tell my servant David: ‘This is what the Lord says: “You must not build me a house in which to live. **5** For I have not lived in a house from the time I brought Israel up from Egypt to the present day. I have lived in a tent that has been in various places. **6** Wherever I moved throughout Israel, I did not say to any of the leaders whom I appointed to care for my people Israel, ‘Why have you not built me a house made from cedar?’”

**7** “So now, say this to my servant David: ‘This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: “I took you from the pasture and from your work as a shepherd to make you a leader of my people Israel. **8** I was with you wherever you went and I defeated all your enemies before you. Now I will make you as famous as the great men of the earth. **9** I will establish a place for my people Israel and settle them there; they will live there and not be disturbed anymore. Violent men will not oppress them again, as they did in the beginning **10** and during the time when I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. I will subdue all your enemies.

““I declare to you that the Lord will build a dynastic house for you! **11** When the time comes for you to die, I will raise up your descendant, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. **12** He will build me a house, and I will make his dynasty permanent. **13** I will become his father and he will become my son. I will never withhold my **loyal love (chesed)** from him, as I withheld it from the one who ruled before you. **14** I will put him in permanent charge of my house and my kingdom; his dynasty will be permanent.”” **15** Nathan told David all these words that were revealed to him.



# 1 CHRONICLES 19

## *David & the Ammonites*

CF. 2 SAMUEL 10

16:34

16:41

17:13

19:2

19:2

**1** Later King Nahash of the Ammonites died and his son succeeded him. **2** David said, “I will express my **loyalty (*chesed*)** to Hanun son of Nahash, for his father was **loyal (*chesed*)** to me.” So David sent messengers to express his sympathy over his father’s death. When David’s servants entered Ammonite territory to visit Hanun and express the king’s sympathy, **3** the Ammonite officials said to Hanun, “Do you really think David is trying to honor your father by sending these messengers to express his sympathy? No, his servants have come to you so they can get information and spy out the land!” **4** So Hanun seized David’s servants and shaved their beards off. He cut off the lower part of their robes so that their buttocks were exposed and then sent them away. **5** People came and told David what had happened to the men, so he sent messengers to meet them, for the men were thoroughly humiliated. The king said, “Stay in Jericho until your beards grow again; then you may come back.”

**6** When the Ammonites realized that David was disgusted with them, Hanun and the Ammonites sent 1,000 talents of silver to hire chariots and charioteers from Aram Naharaim, Aram Maacah, and Zobah. **7** They hired 32,000 chariots, along with the king of Maacah and his army, who came and camped in front of Medeba. The Ammonites also assembled from their cities and marched out to do battle.

**8** When David heard the news, he sent Joab and the entire army to meet them. [**Verses 9-13, Battle preparations**] **14** So Joab and his men marched toward the Arameans to do battle, and they fled before him. **15** When the Ammonites saw the Arameans flee, they fled before Joab’s brother Abishai and withdrew into the city. Joab went back to Jerusalem.



*Hesed in*  
**2 CHRONICLES**

*In the United & Divided Monarchies*

# HESED IN 2 CHRONICLES

Hesed (חסד) appears 10 times in 2 Chronicles.

#	Vs	#	Vs
1	1:8	6	7:6
2	5:13	7	20:21
3	6:14	8	24:22
4	6:42	9	32:32
5	7:3	10	35:26



# 2 CHRONICLES 1

## *Solomon Prays for Wisdom*

CF.1 KINGS 3

1:8	7:6
5:13	20:21
6:14	24:22
6:42	32:32
7:3	35:26

**1** Solomon son of David solidified his royal authority, for the Lord his God was with him and magnified him greatly.

**2** Solomon addressed all Israel, including those who commanded units of a thousand and a hundred, the judges, and all the leaders of all Israel who were heads of families. **3** Solomon and the entire assembly went to the worship center in Gibeon, for the tent where they met God was located there, which Moses the Lord's servant had made in the wilderness. **4** (Now David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. **5** But the bronze altar made by Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, was in front of the Lord's tabernacle. Solomon and the entire assembly prayed to him there.) **6** Solomon went up to the bronze altar before the Lord which was at the meeting tent, and he offered up 1,000 burnt sacrifices.

**7** That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Tell me what I should give you." **8** Solomon replied to God, "You demonstrated great **loyalty (*chesed*)** to my father David and have made me king in his place. **9** Now, Lord God, may your promise to my father David be realized, for you have made me king over a great nation as numerous as the dust of the earth. **10** Now give me wisdom and discernment so I can effectively lead this nation. Otherwise no one is able to make judicial decisions for this great nation of yours."

**11** God said to Solomon, "Because you desire this, and did not ask for riches, wealth, and honor, or for vengeance on your enemies, and because you did not ask for long life, but requested wisdom and discernment so you can make judicial decisions for my people over whom I have made you king, **12** you are granted wisdom and discernment. Furthermore I am giving you riches, wealth, and honor surpassing that of any king before or after you."

**13** Solomon left the meeting tent at the worship center in Gibeon and went to Jerusalem, where he reigned over Israel.

# 2 CHRONICLES 5

## *The Dedication of the Temple*

**1** When Solomon had finished constructing the Lord's temple, he put the holy items that belonged to his father David (the silver, gold, and all the other articles) in the treasuries of God's temple.

**2** Then Solomon convened Israel's elders—all the leaders of the Israelite tribes and families—in Jerusalem, so they could witness the transfer of the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the City of David (that is, Zion). **3** All the men of Israel assembled before the king during the festival in the seventh month. **4** When all Israel's elders had arrived, the Levites lifted the ark. **5** The priests and Levites carried the ark, the tent where God appeared to his people, and all the holy items in the tent. **6** Now King Solomon and all the Israelites who had assembled with him went on ahead of the ark and sacrificed more sheep and cattle than could be counted or numbered.

**7** The priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its assigned place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, in the Most Holy Place under the wings of the cherubim. **8** The cherubim's wings extended over the place where the ark sat; the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. **9** The poles were so long their ends extending out from the ark were visible from in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from beyond that point. They have remained there to this very day. **10** There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets Moses had placed there in Horeb. (It was there that the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after he brought them out of the land of Egypt.)

**11** The priests left the Holy Place. All the priests who participated had consecrated themselves, no matter which division they represented. **12** All the Levites who were musicians, including Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and relatives, wore linen. They played cymbals and stringed instruments as they stood east of the altar. They were accompanied by 120 priests who blew trumpets. **13** The trumpeters and musicians played together, praising and giving thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they loudly praised the Lord, singing: **"Certainly he is good; certainly his loyal love (*chesed*) endures!"** Then a cloud filled the Lord's temple. **14** The priests could not carry out their duties because of the cloud; the Lord's splendor filled God's temple.

1:8

7:6

5:13

20:21

6:14

24:22

6:42

32:32

7:3

35:26

# 2 CHRONICLES 6

## *The Dedication of the Temple (cont.)*

**1** Then Solomon said, “The Lord has said that he lives in thick darkness. **2** O Lord, I have built a lofty temple for you, a place where you can live permanently.” **3** Then the king turned around and pronounced a blessing over the whole Israelite assembly as they stood there. **4** He said, “The Lord God of Israel is worthy of praise because he has fulfilled what he promised my father David. **5** He told David, ‘Since the day I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from all the tribes of Israel to build a temple in which to live. Nor did I choose a man as leader of my people Israel. **6** But now I have chosen Jerusalem as a place to live, and I have chosen David to lead my people Israel.’ **7** Now my father David had a strong desire to build a temple to honor the Lord God of Israel. **8** The Lord told my father David, ‘It is right for you to have a strong desire to build a temple to honor me. **9** But you will not build the temple; your very own son will build the temple for my honor.’ **10** The Lord has kept the promise he made. I have taken my father David’s place and have occupied the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised. I have built this temple for the honor of the Lord God of Israel **11** and set up in it a place for the ark containing the covenant the Lord made with the Israelites.”

**12** He stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. **13** Solomon had made a bronze platform and had placed it in the middle of the enclosure. It was 7½ long, 7½ wide, and 4½ feet high. He stood on it and then got down on his knees in front of the entire assembly of Israel. He spread out his hands toward the sky, **14** and prayed: “O Lord God of Israel, there is no god like you in heaven or on earth! You maintain **covenantal loyalty (*chesed*)** to your servants who obey you with sincerity. **15** You have kept your word to your servant, my father David; this very day you have fulfilled what you promised. **16** Now, O Lord God of Israel, keep the promise you made to your servant, my father David, when you said, ‘You will never fail to have a successor ruling before me on the throne of Israel, provided that your descendants watch their step and obey my law as you have done.’ **17** Now, O Lord God of Israel, may the promise you made to your servant David be realized.

1:8

7:6

5:13

20:21

6:14

24:22

6:42

32:32

7:3

35:26



# 2 CHRONICLES 6

## *The Dedication of the Temple (cont.)*

[Verses 18-33, Solomon's prayer continues]

**34** “When you direct your people to march out and fight their enemies, and they direct their prayers to you toward this chosen city and this temple I built for your honor, **35** then listen from heaven to their prayers for help and vindicate them.

**36** “The time will come when your people will sin against you (for there is no one who is sinless!) and you will be angry at them and deliver them over to their enemies, who will take them as prisoners to their land, whether far away or close by. **37** When your people come to their senses in the land where they are held prisoner, they will repent and beg for your mercy in the land of their imprisonment, admitting, ‘We have sinned and gone astray, we have done evil!’ **38** When they return to you with all their heart and being in the land where they are held prisoner and direct their prayers toward the land you gave to their ancestors, your chosen city, and the temple I built for your honor, **39** then listen from your heavenly dwelling place to their prayers for help, vindicate them, and forgive your sinful people.

**40** “Now, my God, may you be attentive and responsive to the prayers offered in this place. **41** Now ascend, O Lord God, to your resting place, you and the ark of your strength! May your priests, O Lord God, experience your deliverance. May your loyal followers rejoice in the prosperity you give. **42** O Lord God, do not reject your chosen ones! Remember the **faithful promises (*chesed*)** you made to your servant David!”

1:8

7:6

5:13

20:21

6:14

24:22

6:42

32:32

7:3

35:26

# 2 CHRONICLES 7

## *The Dedication of the Temple (cont.)*

**1** When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the Lord's splendor filled the temple. **2** The priests were unable to enter the Lord's temple because the Lord's splendor filled the Lord's temple. **3** When all the Israelites saw the fire come down and the Lord's splendor over the temple, they got on their knees with their faces downward toward the pavement. They worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, **"Certainly he is good; certainly his loyal love (*chesed*) endures!"**

**4** The king and all the people were presenting sacrifices to the Lord. **5** King Solomon sacrificed 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. Then the king and all the people dedicated God's temple. **6** The priests stood in their assigned spots, along with the Levites who had the musical instruments used for praising the Lord. (These were the ones King David made for giving thanks to the Lord and which were used by David when he offered praise, saying, **"Certainly his loyal love (*chesed*) endures."**) Opposite the Levites, the priests were blowing the trumpets, while all Israel stood there. **7** Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard that is in front of the Lord's temple. He offered burnt sacrifices, grain offerings, and the fat from the peace offerings there, because the bronze altar that Solomon had made was too small to hold all these offerings. **8** At that time Solomon and all Israel with him celebrated a festival for seven days. This great assembly included people from Lebo Hamath in the north to the Stream of Egypt in the south. **9** On the eighth day they held an assembly, for they had dedicated the altar for seven days and celebrated the festival for seven more days. **10** On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, Solomon sent the people home. They left happy and contented because of the good the Lord had done for David, Solomon, and his people Israel.

1:8	7:6
5:13	20:21
6:14	24:22
6:42	32:32
7:3	35:26

# 2 CHRONICLES 20

## *Jehoshaphat's Prayer*

**18** Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face toward the ground, and all the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord and worshiped him. **19** Then some Levites, from the Kohathites and Korahites, got up and loudly praised the Lord God of Israel.

**20** Early the next morning they marched out to the wilderness of Tekoa. When they were ready to march, Jehoshaphat stood up and said: “Listen to me, you people of Judah and residents of Jerusalem! Trust in the Lord your God and you will be safe! Trust in the message of his prophets and you will win.” **21** He met with the people and appointed musicians to play before the Lord and praise his majestic splendor. As they marched ahead of the warriors they said: **“Give thanks to the Lord, for his loyal love (*chesed*) endures.”**

**22** When they began to shout and praise, the Lord suddenly attacked the Ammonites, Moabites, and men from Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. **23** The Ammonites and Moabites attacked the men from Mount Seir and annihilated them. When they had finished off the men of Seir, they attacked and destroyed one another. **24** When the men of Judah arrived at the observation post overlooking the wilderness and looked at the huge army, they saw dead bodies on the ground; there were no survivors. **25** Jehoshaphat and his men went to gather the plunder; they found a huge amount of supplies, clothing, and valuable items. They carried away everything they could. There was so much plunder, it took them three days to haul it off.

1:8	7:6
5:13	20:21
6:14	24:22
6:42	32:32
7:3	35:26



# 2 CHRONICLES 24

## *The Reign of Joash*

**15** Jehoiada grew old and died at the age of 130. **16** He was buried in the City of David with the kings, because he had accomplished good in Israel and for God and his temple.

**17** After Jehoiada died, the officials of Judah visited the king and declared their loyalty to him. The king listened to their advice. **18** They abandoned the temple of the Lord God of their ancestors and worshiped the Asherah poles and idols. Because of this sinful activity, God was angry with Judah and Jerusalem. **19** The Lord sent prophets among them to lead them back to him. They warned the people, but they would not pay attention. **20** God's Spirit energized Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood up before the people and said to them, "This is what God says: 'Why are you violating the commands of the Lord? You will not be prosperous. Because you have rejected the Lord, he has rejected you!'" **21** They plotted against him and by royal decree stoned him to death in the courtyard of the Lord's temple. **22** King Joash disregarded the **loyalty (*chesed*)** Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him and killed Jehoiada's son. As Zechariah was dying, he said, "May the Lord take notice and seek vengeance!"

**23** At the beginning of the year the Syrian army attacked Joash and invaded Judah and Jerusalem. They wiped out all the leaders of the people and sent all the plunder they gathered to the king of Damascus. **24** Even though the invading Syrian army was relatively weak, the Lord handed over to them Judah's very large army, for the people of Judah had abandoned the Lord God of their ancestors. The Syrians gave Joash what he deserved. **25** When they withdrew, they left Joash badly wounded. His servants plotted against him because of what he had done to the son of Jehoiada the priest. They murdered him on his bed. Thus he died and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings. **26** The conspirators were Zabad son of Shimeath (an Ammonite woman) and Jehozabad son of Shimrith (a Moabite woman).

**27** The list of Joash's sons, the many prophetic oracles about him, and the account of his building project on God's temple are included in the record of the Scroll of the Kings. His son Amaziah replaced him as king.

1:8	7:6
5:13	20:21
6:14	24:22
6:42	32:32
7:3	35:26



# 2 CHRONICLES 32

## *The Reign of Hezekiah*

**24** In those days Hezekiah was stricken with a terminal illness. He prayed to the Lord, who answered him and gave him a sign confirming that he would be healed. **25** But Hezekiah was ungrateful; he had a proud attitude, provoking God to be angry at him, as well as Judah and Jerusalem. **26** But then Hezekiah and the residents of Jerusalem humbled themselves and abandoned their pride, and the Lord was not angry with them for the rest of Hezekiah's reign.

**27** Hezekiah was very wealthy and greatly respected. He made storehouses for his silver, gold, precious stones, spices, shields, and all his other valuable possessions. **28** He made storerooms for the harvest of grain, wine, and olive oil, and stalls for all his various kinds of livestock and his flocks. **29** He built royal cities and owned a large number of sheep and cattle, for God gave him a huge amount of possessions.

**30** Hezekiah dammed up the source of the waters of the Upper Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah succeeded in all that he did. **31** So when the envoys arrived from the Babylonian officials to visit him and inquire about the sign that occurred in the land, God left him alone to test him, in order to know his true motives.

**32** The rest of the events of Hezekiah's reign, including his **faithful deeds (*chesed*)**, are recorded in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, included in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel. **33** Hezekiah passed away and was buried on the ascent of the tombs of the descendants of David. All the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem buried him with great honor. His son Manasseh replaced him as king.

1:8	7:6
5:13	20:21
6:14	24:22
6:42	32:32
7:3	35:26

# 2 CHRONICLES 35

## *The Reign of Josiah*

**1** Josiah observed a Passover festival for the Lord in Jerusalem. They slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the first month. **2** He appointed the priests to fulfill their duties and encouraged them to carry out their service in the Lord's temple.

**[Verse 3-19, the rest of Josiah's Passover]**

**20** After Josiah had done all this for the temple, King Necho of Egypt marched up to do battle at Carchemish on the Euphrates River. Josiah marched out to oppose him. **21** Necho sent messengers to him, saying, "Why are you opposing me, O king of Judah? I am not attacking you today, but the kingdom with which I am at war. God told me to hurry. Stop opposing God, who is with me, or else he will destroy you." **22** But Josiah did not turn back from him; he disguised himself for battle. He did not take seriously the words of Necho which he had received from God; he went to fight him in the Plain of Megiddo. **23** Archers shot King Josiah; the king ordered his servants, "Take me out of this chariot, for I am seriously wounded." **24** So his servants took him out of the chariot, put him in another chariot that he owned, and brought him to Jerusalem, where he died. He was buried in the tombs of his ancestors; all the people of Judah and Jerusalem mourned Josiah. **25** Jeremiah composed laments for Josiah which all the male and female singers use to mourn Josiah to this very day. It has become customary in Israel to sing these; they are recorded in the Book of Laments.

**26** The rest of the events of Josiah's reign, including the **faithful acts (chesed)** he did in obedience to what is written in the law of the Lord **27** and his accomplishments, from start to finish, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

1:8	7:6
5:13	20:21
6:14	24:22
6:42	32:32
7:3	35:26



*Hesed in*

# EZRA

*In the Years after the Exile*

# HESED IN EZRA

Hesed (חסד) appears 3 times in Ezra.

#	Vs
1	3:11
2	7:28
3	9:9



# EZRA 3

## *Preparations for Rebuilding the Temple*

**7** So they provided money for the masons and carpenters, and food, beverages, and olive oil for the people of Sidon and Tyre, so that they would bring cedar timber from Lebanon to the seaport at Joppa, in accord with the edict of King Cyrus of Persia. **8** In the second year after they had come to the temple of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak initiated the work, along with the rest of their associates, the priests and the Levites, and all those who were coming to Jerusalem from the exile. They appointed the Levites who were at least twenty years old to take charge of the work on the Lord's temple. **9** So Jeshua appointed both his sons and his relatives, Kadmiel and his sons (the sons of Yehudah), to take charge of the workers in the temple of God, along with the sons of Henadad, their sons, and their relatives the Levites. **10** When the builders established the Lord's temple, the priests, ceremonially attired and with their clarions, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with their cymbals, stood to praise the Lord according to the instructions left by King David of Israel. **11** With antiphonal response they sang, praising and glorifying the Lord:

**“For he is good;  
his loyal love (*chesed*) toward Israel is forever.”**

All the people gave a loud shout as they praised the Lord when the temple of the Lord was established. **12** Many of the priests, the Levites, and the leaders—older people who had seen with their own eyes the former temple while it was still established—were weeping loudly, and many others raised their voice in a joyous shout. **13** People were unable to tell the difference between the sound of joyous shouting and the sound of the people's weeping, for the people were shouting so loudly that the sound was heard a long way off.

3:11

7:28

9:9

# EZRA 7

## *Artaxerxes Endorses Ezra*

**21** “I, King Artaxerxes, hereby issue orders to all the treasurers of Trans-Euphrates, that you precisely execute all that Ezra the priestly scribe of the law of the God of heaven may request of you— **22** up to 100 talents of silver, 100 cors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of olive oil, and unlimited salt. **23** Everything that the God of heaven has required should be precisely done for the temple of the God of heaven. Why should there be wrath against the empire of the king and his sons? **24** Furthermore, be aware of the fact that you have no authority to impose tax, tribute, or toll on any of the priests, the Levites, the musicians, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or the attendants at the temple of this God.

**25** “Now you, Ezra, in keeping with the wisdom of your God which you possess, appoint judges and court officials who can arbitrate cases on behalf of all the people who are in Trans-Euphrates who know the laws of your God. Those who do not know this law should be taught. **26** Everyone who does not observe both the law of your God and the law of the king will be completely liable to the appropriate penalty, whether it is death or banishment or confiscation of property or detainment in prison.”

**27** Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, who so moved in the heart of the king to so honor the temple of the Lord which is in Jerusalem! **28** He has also conferred **his favor** (*chesed*) on me before the king, his advisers, and all the influential leaders of the king. I gained strength as the hand of the Lord my God was on me, and I gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.

3:11

7:28

9:9

# EZRA 9

## *Ezra's Prayer*

3:11

7:28

9:9

**9:1** Now when these things had been completed, the leaders approached me and said, “The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the local residents who practice detestable things similar to those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. **2** Indeed, they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has become intermingled with the local residents. Worse still, the leaders and the officials have been at the forefront of all this unfaithfulness!”

**3** When I heard this report, I tore my tunic and my robe and ripped out some of the hair from my head and beard. Then I sat down, quite devastated. **4** Everyone who held the words of the God of Israel in awe gathered around me because of the unfaithful acts of the people of the exile. Devastated, I continued to sit there until the evening offering.

**5** At the time of the evening offering I got up from my self-abasement, with my tunic and robe torn, and then dropped to my knees and spread my hands to the Lord my God. **6** I prayed:

“O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my God! For our iniquities have climbed higher than our heads, and our guilt extends to the heavens. **7** From the days of our fathers until this very day our guilt has been great. Because of our iniquities we, along with our kings and priests, have been delivered over by the local kings to sword, captivity, plunder, and embarrassment—right up to the present time.



# EZRA 9

## *Ezra's Prayer (cont.)*

**8** “But now briefly we have received mercy from the Lord our God, in that he has left us a remnant and has given us a secure position in his holy place. Thus our God has enlightened our eyes and has given us a little relief in our time of servitude. **9** Although we are slaves, our God has not abandoned us in our servitude. He has extended **kindness (*chesed*)** to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, in that he has revived us to restore the temple of our God and to raise up its ruins and to give us a protective wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

**10** “And now what are we able to say after this, our God? For we have forsaken your commandments **11** which you commanded us through your servants the prophets with these words: ‘The land that you are entering to possess is a land defiled by the impurities of the local residents! With their abominations they have filled it from one end to the other with their filthiness. **12** Therefore do not give your daughters in marriage to their sons, and do not take their daughters in marriage for your sons. Do not ever seek their peace or welfare, so that you may be strong and may eat the good of the land and may leave it as an inheritance for your children forever.’

**13** “Everything that has happened to us has come about because of our wicked actions and our great guilt. Even so, our God, you have exercised restraint toward our iniquities and have given us a remnant such as this. **14** Shall we once again break your commandments and intermarry with these abominable peoples? Would you not be so angered by us that you would wipe us out, with no survivor or remnant? **15** O Lord God of Israel, you are righteous, for we are left as a remnant this day. Indeed, we stand before you in our guilt. However, because of this guilt no one can really stand before you.”

3:11

7:28

9:9





*Hesed in*  
**NEHEMIAH**

*In the Years after the Exile*

# HESED IN NEHEMIAH

Hesed (חסד) appears 5 times in Nehemiah.

#	Vs
1	1:5
2	9:17
3	9:32
4	13:14
5	13:22

# NEHEMIAH 1

## *Nehemiah's Prayer*

1:5

9:17

9:32

13:14

13:22

**1** These are the words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

It so happened that in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year, I was in Susa the citadel. **2** Hanani, who was one of my relatives, along with some of the men from Judah, came to me, and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped and had survived the exile, and about Jerusalem.

**3** They said to me, “The remnant that remains from the exile there in the province are experiencing considerable adversity and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem lies breached, and its gates have been burned down!”

**4** When I heard these things I sat down abruptly, crying and mourning for several days. I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. **5** Then I said, “Please, O Lord God of heaven, great and awesome God, who keeps his **loving covenant** (*chesed*) with those who love him and obey his commandments, **6** may your ear be attentive and your eyes be open to hear the prayer of your servant that I am praying to you today throughout both day and night on behalf of your servants the Israelites. I am confessing the sins of the Israelites that we have committed against you—both I myself and my family have sinned. **7** We have behaved corruptly against you, not obeying the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments that you commanded your servant Moses. **8** Please recall the word you commanded your servant Moses: ‘If you act unfaithfully, I will scatter you among the nations. **9** But if you repent and obey my commandments and do them, then even if your dispersed people are in the most remote location, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen for my name to reside.’ **10** They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your mighty strength and by your powerful hand. **11** Please, Lord, listen attentively to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants who take pleasure in showing respect to your name. Grant your servant success today and show compassion to me in the presence of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer for the king.



# NEHEMIAH 9

## *The Israelites Confess Their Sin*

**1** On the twenty-fourth day of this same month the Israelites assembled; they were fasting and wearing sackcloth, their heads covered with dust. **2** Those truly of Israelite descent separated from all the foreigners, standing and confessing their sins and the iniquities of their ancestors. **3** For one-fourth of the day they stood in their place and read from the book of the law of the Lord their God, and for another fourth they were confessing their sins and worshiping the Lord their God. **4** Then the Levites—Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Kenani—stood on the steps and called out loudly to the Lord their God. **5** The Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah—said, “Stand up and bless the Lord your God!”

“May you be blessed, O Lord our God, from age to age. May your glorious name be blessed; may it be lifted up above all blessing and praise. **6** You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, along with all their multitude of stars, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You impart life to them all, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

**7** “You are the Lord God who chose Abram and brought him forth from Ur of the Chaldeans. You changed his name to Abraham. **8** When you perceived that his heart was faithful toward you, you established a covenant with him to give his descendants the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, and the Girgashites. You have fulfilled your promise, for you are righteous.

1:5

9:17

9:32

13:14

13:22

# NEHEMIAH 9

## *The Israelites Confess Their Sin*

**9** “You saw the affliction of our ancestors in Egypt, and you heard their cry at the Red Sea. **10** You performed awesome signs against Pharaoh, against his servants, and against all the people of his land, for you knew that the Egyptians had acted presumptuously against them. You made for yourself a name that is celebrated to this day. **11** You split the sea before them, and they crossed through the sea on dry ground. But you threw their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into surging waters. **12** You guided them with a pillar of cloud by day and with a pillar of fire by night to illumine for them the path they were to travel.

**13** “You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven. You provided them with just judgments, true laws, and good statutes and commandments. **14** You made known to them your holy Sabbath; you issued commandments, statutes, and laws to them through Moses your servant. **15** You provided bread from heaven for them in their time of hunger, and you brought forth water from the rock for them in their time of thirst. You told them to enter in order to possess the land that you had sworn to give them.

**16** “But they—our ancestors—behaved presumptuously; they rebelled and did not obey your commandments. **17** They refused to obey and did not recall your miracles that you had performed among them. Instead, they rebelled and appointed a leader to return to their bondage in Egypt. But you are a God of forgiveness, merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and unfailing in your **loyal love (*chesed*)**. You did not abandon them, **18** even when they made a cast image of a calf for themselves and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up from Egypt,’ or when they committed atrocious blasphemies.

1:5

9:17

9:32

13:14

13:22

# NEHEMIAH 9

## *The Israelites Confess Their Sin (cont.)*

**19** “Due to your great compassion you did not abandon them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud did not stop guiding them in the path by day, nor did the pillar of fire stop illuminating for them by night the path on which they should travel. **20** You imparted your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths; you provided water for their thirst. **21** For forty years you sustained them. Even in the wilderness they never lacked anything. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

**22** “You gave them kingdoms and peoples, and you allocated them to every corner of the land. They inherited the land of King Sihon of Heshbon and the land of King Og of Bashan. **23** You multiplied their descendants like the stars of the sky. You brought them to the land you had told their ancestors to enter in order to possess. **24** Their descendants entered and possessed the land. You subdued before them the Canaanites who were the inhabitants of the land. You delivered them into their hand, together with their kings and the peoples of the land, to deal with as they pleased. **25** They captured fortified cities and fertile land. They took possession of houses full of all sorts of good things—wells previously dug, vineyards, olive trees, and fruit trees in abundance. They ate until they were full and grew fat. They enjoyed to the full your great goodness.

1:5

9:17

9:32

13:14

13:22



# NEHEMIAH 9

## *The Israelites Confess Their Sin (cont.)*

**26** “Nonetheless they grew disobedient and rebelled against you; they disregarded your law. They killed your prophets who had solemnly admonished them in order to cause them to return to you. They committed atrocious blasphemies. **27** Therefore you delivered them into the hand of their adversaries, who oppressed them. But in the time of their distress they called to you, and you heard from heaven. In your abundant compassion you provided them with deliverers to rescue them from their adversaries.

**28** “Then, when they were at rest again, they went back to doing evil before you. Then you abandoned them to their enemies, and they gained dominion over them. When they again cried out to you, in your compassion you heard from heaven and rescued them time and again. **29** And you solemnly admonished them in order to return them to your law, but they behaved presumptuously and did not obey your commandments. They sinned against your ordinances—those by which an individual, if he obeys them, will live. They boldly turned from you; they rebelled and did not obey. **30** You prolonged your kindness with them for many years, and you solemnly admonished them by your Spirit through your prophets. Still they paid no attention, so you delivered them into the hands of the neighboring peoples. **31** However, due to your abundant mercy you did not do away with them altogether; you did not abandon them. For you are a merciful and compassionate God.

1:5

9:17

9:32

13:14

13:22



# NEHEMIAH 9

## *The Israelites Confess Their Sin (cont.)*

1:5

9:17

9:32

13:14

13:22

**32** “So now, our God—the great, powerful, and awesome God, who keeps **covenant fidelity (*chesed*)**—do not regard as inconsequential all the hardship that has befallen us—our kings, our leaders, our priests, our prophets, our ancestors, and all your people—from the days of the kings of Assyria until this very day. **33** You are righteous with regard to all that has happened to us, for you have acted faithfully. It is we who have been in the wrong! **34** Our kings, our leaders, our priests, and our ancestors have not kept your law. They have not paid attention to your commandments or your testimonies by which you have solemnly admonished them. **35** Even when they were in their kingdom and benefiting from your incredible goodness that you had lavished on them in the spacious and fertile land you had set before them, they did not serve you, nor did they turn from their evil practices.

**36** “So today we are slaves! In the very land you gave to our ancestors to eat its fruit and to enjoy its good things—we are slaves. **37** Its abundant produce goes to the kings you have placed over us due to our sins. They rule over our bodies and our livestock as they see fit, and we are in great distress!

**38** “Because of all this we are entering into a binding covenant in written form; our leaders, our Levites, and our priests have affixed their names on the sealed document.”

# NEHEMIAH 13

## *Nehemiah's Reforms*

1:5

9:17

9:32

13:14

13:22

**12** Then all of Judah brought the tithe of the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil to the storerooms. **13** I gave instructions that Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and a certain Levite named Pedaiiah be put in charge of the storerooms, and that Hanan son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah, be their assistant, for they were regarded as trustworthy. It was then their responsibility to oversee the distribution to their colleagues.

**14** Please remember me for this, O my God, and do not wipe out **the kindness (*chesed*)** that I have done for the temple of my God and for its services!

**15** In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath, bringing in heaps of grain and loading them onto donkeys, along with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, and bringing them to Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. So I warned them on the day that they sold these provisions. **16** The people from Tyre who lived there were bringing fish and all kinds of merchandise and were selling it on the Sabbath to the people of Judah—and in Jerusalem, of all places! **17** So I registered a complaint with the nobles of Judah, saying to them, “What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day? **18** Isn’t this the way your ancestors acted, causing our God to bring on them and on this city all this misfortune? And now you are causing even more wrath on Israel, profaning the Sabbath like this!”

**19** When the evening shadows began to fall on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be closed. I further directed that they were not to be opened until after the Sabbath. I positioned some of my young men at the gates so that no load could enter on the Sabbath day. **20** The traders and sellers of all kinds of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem once or twice. **21** But I warned them and said, “Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you repeat this, I will forcibly remove you!” From that time on they did not show up on the Sabbath. **22** Then I directed the Levites to purify themselves and come and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy.

For this please remember me, O my God, and have pity on me in keeping with your **great love (*chesed*)**.



*Hesed in*  
**ESTHER**

*In the Years after the Exile*

# HESED IN ESTHER

Hesed (חסד) appears twice in Esther.

#	Vs
1	2:9
2	2:17



# ESTHER 2

## *Esther Becomes Queen*

2:9

2:17

**1** When these things had been accomplished and the rage of King Ahasuerus had diminished, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decided against her. **2** The king's servants who attended him said, "Let a search be conducted on the king's behalf for attractive young women. **3** And let the king appoint officers throughout all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the attractive young women to Susa the citadel, to the harem under the authority of Hegai, the king's eunuch who oversees the women, and let him provide whatever cosmetics they desire. **4** Let the young woman whom the king finds most attractive become queen in place of Vashti." This seemed like a good idea to the king, so he acted accordingly.

**5** Now there happened to be a Jewish man in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai. He was the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjaminite, **6** who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been carried into exile with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile. **7** Now he was acting as the guardian of Hadassah (that is, Esther), the daughter of his uncle, for neither her father nor her mother was alive. This young woman was very attractive and had a beautiful figure. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had raised her as if she were his own daughter.

**8** It so happened that when the king's edict and his law became known many young women were taken to Susa the citadel to be placed under the authority of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the royal palace to be under the authority of Hegai, who was overseeing the women. **9** This young woman pleased him, and she found **favor (chesed)** with him. He quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her rations; he also provided her with the seven specially chosen young women who were from the palace. He then transferred her and her young women to the best quarters in the harem.

# ESTHER 2

## *Esther Becomes Queen (cont.)*

2:9

2:17

**10** Now Esther had not disclosed her people or her lineage, for Mordecai had instructed her not to do so. **11** And day after day Mordecai used to walk back and forth in front of the court of the harem in order to learn how Esther was doing and what might happen to her.

**12** At the end of the twelve months that were required for the women, when the turn of each young woman arrived to go to King Ahasuerus—for in this way they had to fulfill their time of cosmetic treatment: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfume and various ointments used by women— **13** the woman would go to the king in the following way: Whatever she asked for would be provided for her to take with her from the harem to the royal palace. **14** In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to a separate part of the harem, to the authority of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was overseeing the concubines. She would not go back to the king unless the king was pleased with her and she was requested by name.

**15** When it became the turn of Esther daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai (who had raised her as if she were his own daughter) to go to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who was overseer of the women, had recommended. Yet Esther met with the approval of all who saw her. **16** Then Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus at his royal residence in the tenth month (that is, the month of Tebeth) in the seventh year of his reign. **17** And the king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she met with his **loving (*chesed*)** approval more than all the other young women. So he placed the royal high turban on her head and appointed her queen in place of Vashti. **18** Then the king prepared a large banquet for all his officials and his servants—it was actually Esther's banquet. He also set aside a holiday for the provinces, and he provided for offerings at the king's expense.



*Hesed in*  
**JOB**

*In the Days of the Patriarchs*

# HESED IN JOB

Hesed (חסד) appears 3 times in Job.

#	Vs
1	6:14
2	10:12
3	37:13



# JOB 6

## *Job Responds to Eliphaz*

**1** Then Job responded:

- 2** “Oh, if only my grief could be weighed,  
and my misfortune laid on the scales too!
- 3** But because it is heavier than the sand of the sea,  
that is why my words have been wild.
- 4** For the arrows of the Almighty are within me;  
my spirit drinks their poison;  
God’s sudden terrors are arrayed against me.
- 5** “Does the wild donkey bray when it is near grass?  
Or does the ox bellow over its fodder?
- 6** Can food that is tasteless be eaten without salt?  
Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?
- 7** I have refused to touch such things;  
they are like loathsome food to me.
- 8** “Oh that my request would be realized,  
and that God would grant me what I long for!
- 9** And that God would be willing to crush me,  
that he would let loose his hand and kill me.

6:14

10:12

37:13

# JOB 6

## *Job Responds to Eliphaz (cont.)*

- 10 Then I would yet have my comfort,  
then I would rejoice,  
in spite of pitiless pain,  
for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.
- 11 What is my strength, that I should wait?  
And what is my end,  
that I should prolong my life?
- 12 Is my strength like that of stones?  
Or is my flesh made of bronze?
- 13 Is not my power to help myself nothing,  
and has not every resource been driven from me?
- 14 “To the one in despair, **kindness (*chesed*)** should come from his friend  
even if he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.
- 15 My brothers have been as treacherous as a seasonal stream,  
and as the riverbeds of the intermittent streams that flow away.
- 16 They are dark because of ice;  
snow is piled up over them.

6:14

10:12

37:13

# JOB 6

## *Job Responds to Eliphaz (cont.)*

- 17** When they are scorched, they dry up,  
when it is hot, they vanish from their place.
- 18** Caravans turn aside from their routes;  
they go into the wasteland and perish.
- 19** The caravans of Tema looked intently for these streams;  
the traveling merchants of Sheba hoped for them.
- 20** They were distressed,  
because each one had been so confident;  
they arrived there, but were disappointed.
- 21** For now you have become like these streams that are no help;  
you see a terror, and are afraid.

6:14

10:12

37:13

# JOB 10

## *Job Responds to Bildad*

- 1** “I am weary of my life;  
I will complain freely without restraint;  
I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.
- 2** I will say to God, ‘Do not condemn me;  
tell me why you are contending with me.’
- 3** Is it good for you to oppress,  
to despise the work of your hands,  
while you smile  
on the schemes of the wicked?
- 4** “Do you have eyes of flesh,  
or do you see as a human being sees?
- 5** Are your days like the days of a mortal,  
or your years like the years of a mortal,
- 6** that you must search out my iniquity,  
and inquire about my sin,
- 7** although you know that I am not guilty,  
and that there is no one who can deliver  
out of your hand?
- 8** “Your hands have shaped me and made me,  
but now you destroy me completely.
- 9** Remember that you have made me as with the clay;  
will you return me to dust?

6:14

10:12

37:13



# JOB 10

## *Job Responds to Bildad (cont.)*

- 10** Did you not pour me out like milk,  
and curdle me like cheese?
- 11** You clothed me with skin and flesh  
and knit me together with bones and sinews.
- 12** You gave me life and **favor** (*chesed*),  
and your intervention watched over my spirit.
- 13** “But these things you have concealed in your heart;  
I know that this is with you:
- 14** If I sinned, then you would watch me  
and you would not acquit me of my iniquity.
- 15** If I am guilty, woe to me,  
and if I am innocent, I cannot lift my head;  
I am full of shame,  
and satiated with my affliction.
- 16** If I lift myself up,  
you hunt me as a fierce lion,  
and again you display your power against me.
- 17** You bring new witnesses against me,  
and increase your anger against me;  
relief troops come against me.

6:14

10:12

37:13

# JOB 37

## *The Speech of Elihu*

- 1** At this also my heart pounds  
and leaps from its place.
- 2** Listen carefully to the thunder of his voice,  
to the rumbling that proceeds from his mouth.
- 3** Under the whole heaven he lets it go,  
even his lightning to the far corners of the  
earth.
- 4** After that a voice roars;  
he thunders with an exalted voice,  
and he does not hold back his lightning bolts  
when his voice is heard.
- 5** God thunders with his voice in marvelous ways;  
he does great things beyond our  
understanding.
- 6** For to the snow he says, 'Fall to earth,'  
and to the torrential rains, 'Pour down.'
- 7** He causes everyone to stop working,  
so that all people may know his work.
- 8** The wild animals go to their lairs,  
and in their dens they remain.

6:14

10:12

37:13

# JOB 37

## *The Speech of Elihu*

- 9** A tempest blows out from its chamber,  
icy cold from the driving winds.
- 10** The breath of God produces ice,  
and the breadth of the waters freeze solid.
- 11** He loads the clouds with moisture;  
he scatters his lightning through the clouds.
- 12** The clouds go round in circles,  
wheeling about according to his plans,  
to carry out all that he commands them  
over the face of the whole inhabited world.
- 13** Whether it is for punishment,  
or for his land,  
or for **mercy (*chesed*)**,  
he causes it to find its mark.
- 14** “Pay attention to this, Job!  
Stand still and consider the wonders God works.
- 15** Do you know how God commands them,  
how he makes lightning flash in his storm cloud?

6:14

10:12

37:13

# JOB 37

## *The Speech of Elihu*

- 16** Do you know about the balancing of the clouds,  
that wondrous activity of him who is perfect in knowledge?
- 17** You, whose garments are hot  
when the earth is still because of the south wind,
- 18** will you, with him, spread out the clouds,  
solid as a mirror of molten metal?
- 19** Tell us what we should say to him.  
We cannot prepare a case  
because of the darkness.
- 20** Should he be informed that I want to speak?  
If a man speaks, surely he will be swallowed up!

6:14

10:12

37:13