

The Living Words

<http://thelivingwords.ancient-hebrew.org>

~~ Love ~~

In our modern Western culture, love is an abstract thought of emotion, how one feels toward another, but the Hebrew word **אהב** *ahav* ^[H:157] goes much deeper than simple emotion.

The parent root of this word is **הב** *hav*. While this root is not found in the Biblical text, a couple of other derivatives are. The word **הבהב** *havhav* ^[H:1890], a noun meaning “gift” and **יָהַב** *yahav* ^[H:3051], a verb meaning “to provide,” help to supply the fuller Hebraic understanding of **אהב** *ahav* ^[H:157].

We do not choose our parents or siblings, but they are instead given to us as a gift from above, a privileged gift. Even in the Ancient Hebrew culture, one’s wife was chosen for him. It is our responsibility to provide and protect those privileged gifts. As a verb, the Hebrew word **אהב** *ahav* ^[H:157] means “to provide and protect what is given as a privileged gift.” We are to love God, neighbors, and family, not in an emotional sense, but in the sense of our actions.