

REDEMPTION

THE HEART OF GOD



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back to the garden, where
God did the unthinkable...

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed; he will crush
your head, and you will strike his heel.

-Genesis 3:15

the promise was in the **seed**

God kept the promise, nurturing,
tending, protecting this **seed line**...

until...

When the set time had fully come,
God **sent** forth His son, born of
a woman...

-Galatians 4:4

This is the greatest **send**
of all time!

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who **sent** me has eternal life.

-John 5:24

the ultimate **send**...

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have **sent**.

-John 17:3

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

For God did not **send** His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

-John 3:16-17

And it is here that we are going to finally reach our quest... to gaze upon His face and behold what I believe is the crown jewel in the nature of God

the ultimate **send**...

Why did God send?

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LOVE

this is why God **sends**

God is **love**. -1 John 4:8

this is the Crown Jewel

we have reached our quest...

Why are we disappointed?

maybe we have become
immune and inundated
with counterfeits

LOVE

maybe someone has broken it

LOVE

So, what is love?

How does the world
use it?

but... what is 'love'?

what does it mean?

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored patterned sweater, is sitting at a wooden desk in a dimly lit room. To her left is a lamp with a warm glow. Behind her is a bookshelf filled with books. The scene is captured in a soft, slightly blurred style.

What is love?

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored patterned sweater, is sitting at a wooden desk in a dimly lit room. To her left is a lamp with a warm glow. Behind her is a bookshelf filled with books. The scene is captured in a soft, slightly blurred style.

What is love?

How important are words?

Jesus mentioned the importance of one “jot”
or “tittle” in the Law

Paul argues a key point based upon the singular or plural in a word

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ.

-Galatians 3:16

Noah Webster

Preface, *Webster's 1828 American
Dictionary of the English Language*

“When God created...”

the battle over words
shouldn't surprise us

Peter: "To whom shall we go? You have
the words of **eternal life.**"

-John 6:68

The enemy works to turn **words of life**
into **words of death**

Two great themes in scripture:

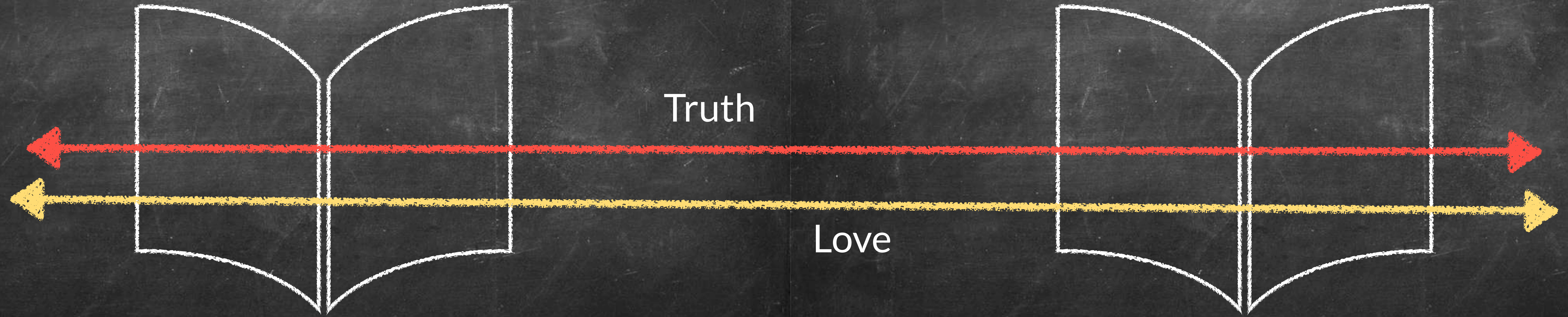
One or the other is usually ignored

New Testament

Old Testament

Truth

Love



Truth

Love

The problem:

Truth without Love

Love without Truth



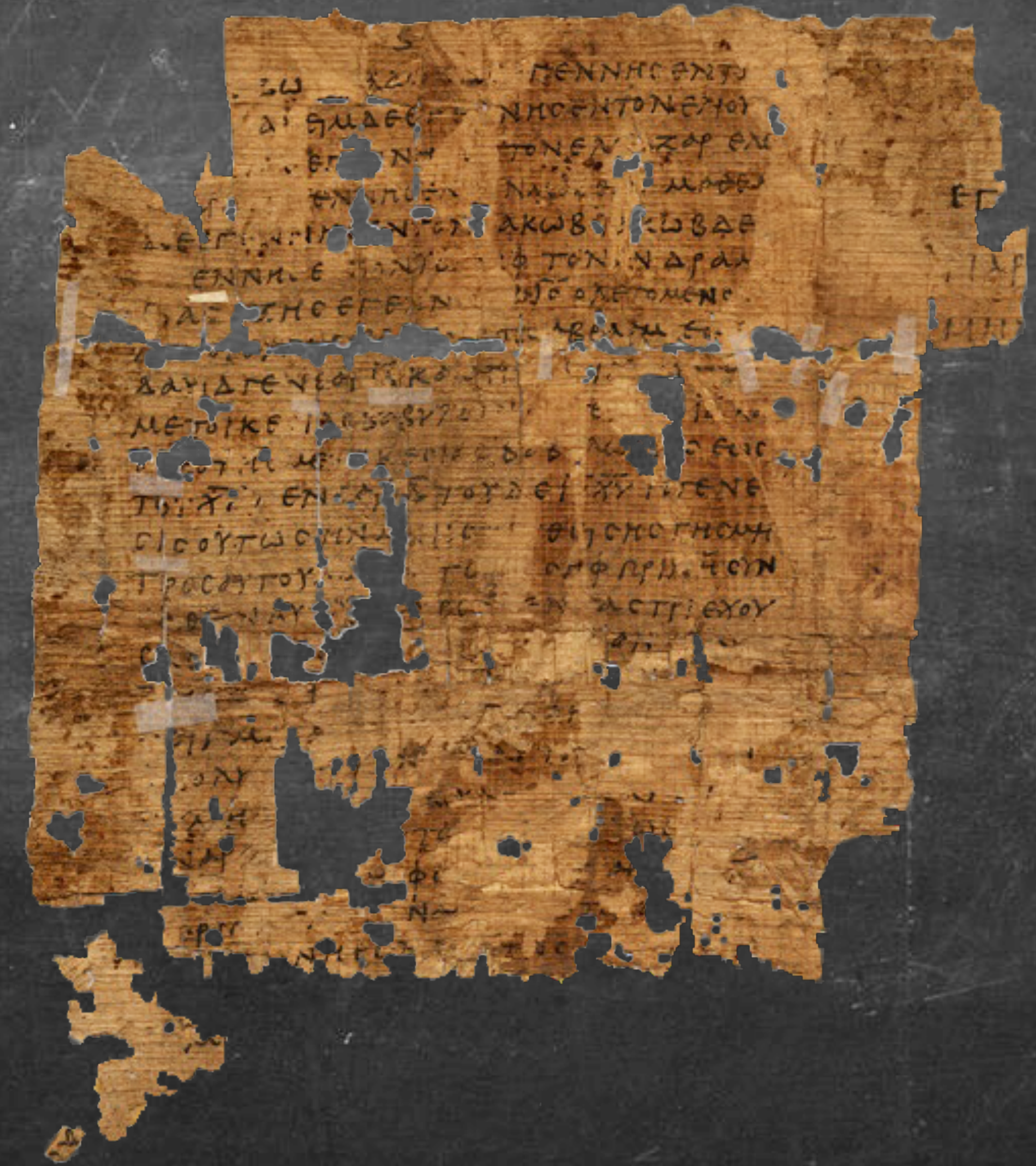
What does this word **love** mean?

We're not sure!

LOVE



AGAPE



back to the nature of God...

Agape: the sacrificial zeal that seeks the **true good** of another

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It is:

- ♦ totally other-centered
- ♦ has nothing to do with my benefit
- ♦ unearned
- ♦ sacrificial for all of this
- ♦ seeks others “true good”; their “shalom”

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It is not:

- ♦ selfish or manipulative
- ♦ blind or truthless, slowing self-destruction
- ♦ hand-outs that create dependents
- ♦ feigned love (Judas) seeking power
- ♦ self-centered and all about my script



True agape **love** is not for wimps!

This is not a minor theme...

it is why Jesus was sent...

For God so loved the world...

-John 3:16

This is not a minor theme...

it is why Jesus died for us...

But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

-Romans 5:8

agape love is a big deal in
the Scriptures

If we don't 'love' each other → then we don't love God -1John 4:20
If we don't 'love' → then we abide in death -1 John 3:14
If we don't 'love' → then we don't know God -1 John 4:8

and, if you don't have **agape**...

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,
but do not have true agape love, I have become
a **noisy gong** or a **clanging cymbal**. If I have the
gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all
knowledge; and if I have all faith,

so as to remove mountains, **but do not have true
agape love**, I am **nothing**. And if I give all my
possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my
body to be burned, **but do not have true agape
love**, it profits me **nothing**.

-1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I were the best teacher in the world



but no **agape**, it means nothing

If I were the smartest person in the world



but no **agape**, it means nothing

If I were the most spiritual person ever



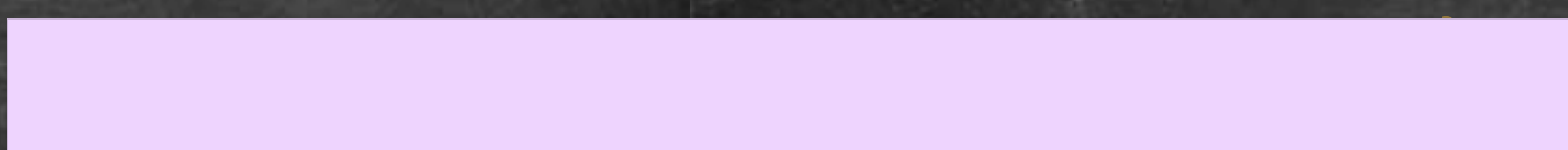
but no **agape**, it means nothing

If I could perform miracles



but no **agape**, it means nothing

If you gave away everything you own



but no **agape**, it means nothing

If you sacrificed your very life



but no **agape**, it means nothing

What do you think God is trying to tell us here?

True agape love is patient, true agape love is kind and is not jealous; true agape love does not brag and is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

True agape love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. True agape love never ends. But now faith, hope, true agape love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is true agape love.

-1 Corinthians 13:4-8

True agape love **is**

patient
kind

bears all things
believes all things
hopes all things
endures all things
never ends

rejoices with the truth
greater than hope and faith

True agape love is **not**

jealous
a braggart
arrogant
rude
selfish

irritable
resentful
rejoices in wrongdoing

Agape love:

“the sacrificial zeal that seeks
the **true good** of another”

Why did Jesus leave?

Why does God send?

What is God's endgame?

Agape love:

“the sacrificial zeal that seeks
the **true good** of another”

But now...something even deeper

It's not just **any** “other” for whom God has a
sacrificial zeal...

Agape love:

“the sacrificial zeal that seeks
the **true good** of another”

His agape love is not extended just to those who are
good, or **righteous** or **favorably inclined** toward God

Agape love:

“the sacrificial zeal that seeks
the **true good** of an **enemy**”

Who has heard of such a thing?

Grace

Grace

God extending agape love to
His enemies

Who **is** this God?

...Christ died for the **ungodly**. -Romans 5:6

...God shows his love for us in that while we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us. -Romans 5:8

...while we were **enemies**, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son... -Romans 5:10

And you, who once were alienated and **hostile** in mind, doing **evil** deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him...

-Colossians 1:21-22

...because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were **dead** in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved...and seated us with him in the heavenly places...

-Ephesians 2:4-6

Who has heard of
such a thing?

Who is this God?

But there is something even even deeper

חֶסֶד / chesed

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for His steadfast love [**chesed**] endures forever.

-Psalms 136:1-2

Translated:

“love” - (NIV)

“mercy” - (KJ/ NKJ/ GB)

“loving kindness” - (NASB)

“loyal love” - (NET)

“grace” - (CJB/ Luther)

“steadfast love” - (ESV)

“goodness”

“favor”

“great kindness”

“friendly”

“unfailing love”

chesed

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-Psalms 136:1-2

it never give up; never quits; never stops its
pursuit of its intended purpose, even when its
love is not returned or spurned

but it is extended, steadfastly, not just to the
'lovable', not just to those who 'deserve' it, but it
is a sacrificial zeal that steadfastly seeks the true
good, the shalom, of those who were 'ungodly',
'sinners', 'dead in their trespasses', 'doing evil
deeds', 'hostile to God'... **His enemies**

- ♦ The One who breathed out a promise instead of evaporating everything in the Garden
- ♦ The One who spared the seed line in Noah's day, though the world was filled with evil
- ♦ The One who protected the seed line through continuous rebellion and complaining

- ♦ The One who was committed to bring forth the Promised Seed no matter what

- ♦ The One who affirmed His commitment to Abraham, Isaac, David, and through the prophets

- ♦ The One who is committed to you, the "elect before the foundation of the world"

Who is this God?

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The One who is zealous to do all of this...sacrificially zealous

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Shalom. Of the greatness of his government
and of **shalom** there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his
kingdom, establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness from that time
on and forever. The **zeal** of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this. -Isaiah 9:6-7

The **zeal** of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Even when it appeared as if the
promise were lost...

the holy seed is in its stump.

-Isaiah 6:13



There shall come forth a shoot from the **stump** of
Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

-Isaiah 11:1

chesed + agape

“the **steadfast**, sacrificial zeal that seeks the **true good** of another”

Why would Satan want to dedicate so much time and trouble to destroy one little word?

Because that word represents the **crown jewel** in the nature of God, the very heart of God

El Qanna

For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is **Jealous**, is a **jealous** God.

-Exodus 34:14

I the LORD your God am a **Jealous** God...
showing **steadfast love**...

-Exodus 20:5-6

O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing **steadfast love** to your servants who walk before you with all their hearts.

-2 Chronicles 6:14

The Love of God

Based upon a Jewish poem, "Hadamut", dating back to 1096, it has been cherished by saints for nearly a thousand years...

Could we with ink, the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky

The Love of God

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Oh, love of God, how rich and pure,
how measureless and strong.
It shall forevermore endure,
the saints and angels song.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-Romans 8:31-35, 37-39