

Word 14: מְאֹד (Me'od)
To the ⁿth degree + might + potential

How do you understand strength or might?

- Occurring 300 times the most frequent use is as an adverb to give a sense of the extreme (Gen.4:5; 7:19; 13:2, 13; 1Ki.4:29)
- Could be understood in our idiom as an action to the ⁿth degree/ 'givin' it laldie'.
- Completeness and potential

Translating Deuteronomy 6:5

Bearing all that in mind,
how should we translate Deuteronomy 6:5?

Space for thoughts

Love matters

The *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

- The most important part of the *Torah* (Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27).
- From the passage known as 'The *Shema*' (6:4-9), the foundation of Hebrew religion.
- *Shema* comes from the Hebrew 'to hear', though it is hearing leading to action.
- The *Shema* hearing is not passive, the message precipitates action; so = hear and do.
- It starts off in verse four with the absolute sovereignty of God as he is declared as the only one.
- Simultaneously this mighty God was known as YHWH to the people.
- The emphasis that follows is not on obedience or keeping laws.
- The foundational emphasis of their identity and their actions is love.
- Verse 7 is poetic hyperbole which we see elsewhere:
 - o Heights and depths (Psa.139:8; Amo.9:2-4)
 - o Morning and evening (Psa.55:17; 119:147-8)
- The two extremes includes everything that lies in between
- In summary: Every generation, in the comfort of your home, and when you are out of that home (everywhere), when you go to bed and when you get up, the end and the beginning of a day and all in between (all of the time), on your hand (all that you do), before your eyes (all of your thoughts), on the entrance of your homes and gates (a public declaration and a private reminder every time you enter or leave).

Word 11: אָהֵב ('*ahav*/ '*ahab*) Love

There are other terms that could be translated as love (such as דָּוָד *dode*)

- '*ahab* occurs 212 times added to which are 36 instances of the Fem. '*ahabah* (אָהֵבָה).
- '*ahab* is used to describe the most profound loves of our lives. It is used to describe:
 - The love of parents for children (Gen.22:2; 25:28; 37:3, 4; 44:20).
 - Spousal love (Gen.24:67; 29:18, 20 30, 32; 34:3; Deu.21:15, 16; Jdg.14:16; 16:4, 15; Rth.4:15; 1Sa.1:5; 18:20; 2Sa.13:1, 4, 15; 1Ki.11:1, 2; 2Ch.11:21; Neh.13:26; Son.1-3).
 - The love between best friends (1Sa.18:1, 3, 16; 20:17; 2Sa.1:23, 26)
 - The devotion / affection for someone (Exo.21:5; 1Sa.16:21; 18:22; 1Ki.5:1; 2Ch.2:11)
 - Loving the neighbour (Lev.19:18, 34; Zec.8:17).
 - Favourite food (Gen.27:4, 9, 14).
 - God's for the people (Deu.4:37; 7:8, 13; 10:15, 18; 15:16; 23:5; 2Sa.12:24; 1Ki.10:9; 2Ch.9:8; 20:7; Psa.47:4; 78:68; 146:8; Pro.3:12; Jer.31:3; Dan.9:4; Hos.11:1; Mal.1:2)
 - God loving righteousness/ justice (Psa.33:5; 37:28; 45:7; Amo.5:15; Mic.3:2)
 - The love of people for God (Exo.20:6; Deu.5:10; 6:5; 7:9; 10:12, 19; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3; 19:9; 30:16, 20; Jos.22:5; 23:11; Jdg.5:31; 1Ki.3:3; Neh.1:5; Psa.5:11; 31:23; 97:10; 116:1; 119:132; 122:6).
 - Love of the *Torah* (Psa.119:48, 97, 113, 119, 127, 140, 159, 163, 165, 167).

Word 12: לֵבָב (*Levav*) heart

How do you understand heart?

- *Levav* occurs 251 times and the root לָב (*lev*) adds a further 698 instances and is usually rendered as heart, i.e. the seat of emotions such as:
 - o Love (Deu.10:16; 11:13; 13:3 cf. *Lev* in Jdg.16:15, 17; Son.4:9)
 - o Hate (Lev.19:17; Zec.8:17)
 - o Fear (Lev.26:36; Deu.1:28; 20:3 cf. Jos.2:11; 5:1; 7:5).
 - o Pride (Lev.26:41; Deu.8:14; Isa.9:9)
 - o Grief (1Sa.1:8 cf. *Lev* in Gen.6:6)
 - o Lust (Pro.6:25)
- Each makes sense with a rendering of heart.
- However, 'heart' does not actually fit the majority of the times *levav* is used.
- Instead, *Levav* is associated with love, hate, lust, panic, fear, courage, intentions, study, grief, thinking, wisdom, knowledge, understanding and learning. As such, emotion, intention and rational thought are included in *levav* but naturally excluded in the rendering of 'heart'.

Word 13: נֶפֶשׁ (*Nephesh*) 'Soul'

How do you understand soul?

- Occurring 753 times it is vital in understanding the afterlife and salvation.
- Usually translated as soul.
- However, in use we see it refer to:
 - o Breath (Gen.1:30; 2:7; 1Ki.17)
 - o Flesh + blood (Gen.14; 46:18; Lev.24:17; Psa.63:1 and the dead in Numbers)