

YT Video-Friend of YAHWEH

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 13 March 2021

Text

Jas 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

I. Friendship With Christ

Jonathan Edwards: "Let it be our first love to enter into an everlasting friendship with Christ that never shall be broken" [WJE Online Vol.44]

"Whatsoever there is, or can be, that is desirable to be in a friend, is in Christ, and that to the highest degree that can be desired" [Works, 19:588]

II. Abraham

KJV 2Ch 20:7 *Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend [H157] for ever? [King Jehoshaphat]*

KJV Isa 41:8 *But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend [H157].*

Strong: H157 'âhab 'âhêb
aw-hab', aw-habe'

A primitive root; to have affection for (sexually or otherwise): - (be-) love (-d, -ly, -r), like, friend.

Note: the Septuagint translated ahab into the Greek 'agapao'

Jas 2:20 *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

Jas 2:21 *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*

Jas 2:22 *Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?*

Jas 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

Jas 2:24 *Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

G5384: philos

fee'-los

Properly dear, that is, a friend; actively fond, that is, friendly (still as a noun, an associate, neighbor, etc.): - friend.

III. Moses

Exo 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

H7453: _rea [reya]

BDB Definition:

1) friend, companion, fellow, another person

1a) **friend, intimate**

1b) fellow, fellow citizen, another person (weaker sense)

1c) other, another (reciprocal phrase)

Strong: From H7462; an associate (more or less close): - brother, companion, fellow, **friend**, husband, lover, neighbour, X (an-) other.

Num 12:5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

Num 12:6 And he said, hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

Num 12:7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

Num 12:8 **With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold:** wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Num 12:9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

Num 12:10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

Exo 2:16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

Exo 2:17 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them and watered their flock.

Exo 2:18 And when they came to **Reuel their father**, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day?

Note: Jethro, father-in-law of Moses, was a priest and had the family name of "Reuel" which means "friend of God" in Hebrew [H7467]

IV. Lazarus

Joh 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, **our friend Lazarus** sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

G5384: philos

V. Do What He Commands

Joh 15:12 This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends [philos]

Joh 15:14 Ye are my friends [philos], if ye do whatsoever I command you.

VI. Lay Down Our Lives For Him, Wife & Brethren

1Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it

1Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

VII. Only Friends Have Access To His Revelations

Joh 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

VIII. Servants Vs Friends

- a. A servant does not have the same rights, powers and authority as the master
- b. A servant is not privy to all the secrets of the master

Gen 18:17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do,

Gen 18:18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Gen 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Amo 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Note: the prophet of YAHWEH do get to know His impending judgments in advance but a friend gets to know a lot more.

- c. A servant serves out of duty
- d. A friend serves out of devotion and love
- e. A friend desires intimacy: close relationship, knows his friend rather than knows about his friend.
- f. A servant is told of what is expected of him; a friend has regular and frequent, open communication [fellowship]
- g. A friend receives gifts, a servant receives wages

IX. David & Jonathan

1Sa 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

1Sa 18:2 And Saul took him that day and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

1Sa 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

1Sa 20:4 Then said Jonathan unto David, whatsoever thy soul desires, I will even do it for thee.

- a. Our soul must be knitted with our Saviour
- b. We must love Him as our own soul

Mar 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

Mar 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

- c. We must covenant with Him

X. Peter's Restoration

Joh 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest [G25-agapao] thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love [G5368-phileo] thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.**

Joh 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest [G25-agapao] thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love [G5368-phileo] thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

Joh 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest [G5368-phileo] thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest [G5368-phileo] thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love [G5368-phileo] thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

Joh 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, when thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walk whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.

Joh 21:19 This spoke he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

- a. In this fascinating exchange, Yeshua asked Peter twice whether he "agapao" Him
- b. Peter's answer twice was: I 'philo' you: I am your friend
- c. Yeshua's third question was: do you 'philo' Me
- d. Peter's response was: I 'philo' you: I am your friend
- e. Yeshua clearly wanted Peter to be His friend who would obey Him, lay down his life for Him and a confidant of secrets from the Father.
- f. Yeshua's instruction to Peter: first, teach my lambkins, second, shepherd my sheep and third, teach my sheep.

- g. Hence, Peter was appointed teacher and shepherd to the flock which included young and mature Christians.
- h. Like Yeshua, Peter was to be a good Shepherd. not a hireling, not one who would lord over them and gain financially:

*1Pe 5:2 Feed the flock of God, which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; **not for filthy lucre**, but of a ready mind.*

*1Pe 5:3 **Neither as being lords over God's heritage but being ensamples to the flock.***

1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

XI. How To Become Friends of YAHWEH

a. Draw nigh unto Him

*Jas 4:8 **Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

b. Reverence Him

KJV Psa 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

*ESV Psa 25:14 **The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.***

c. Accept His Counsel & Correction

Pro 27:5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.

*Pro 27:6 **Faithful are the wounds of a friend;** but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*

Pro 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

d. Obey His Commandments

*Joh 14:15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments.***

e. Be Friend of the Bridegroom

*Joh 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the **friend of the bridegroom**, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*

*Joh 3:30 **He must increase, but I must decrease.***

Like John the Baptist, we must learn to be friends [best men] of the Bridegroom. He has the Bride and He must increase and we must decrease.

f. Have a pure heart and speak with grace:

Pro 22:11 *He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.*

g. Listen

Joh 15:15 *No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

h. Love Him at all times:

Pro 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

i. The King will be your friend:

Pro 22:11 *He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.*