

LOVINGKINDNESS

“hesed”

steadfast love, kindness, faithfulness, loyalty. *The core idea of this term relates to loyalty within a relationship. In relation to the concept of love, it denotes God’s faithfulness to his people.*

It has no exact equivalent in English.

Ps 136 What is it in your translation that endures forever?

Hesed in Ruth.

“Lovingkindness” coined by Coverdale 1535. Why did he coin this word, rather than using the simple word “love”?

Translators have used such terms as “loyalty,” “covenant loyalty” “loving kindness” (AV, RV), “steadfast love” (RSV), “unfailing devotion” (NEB), “kindness” (Jerusalem Bible), “merciful love,” “mercy” (AV), etc.

Go to Micah 7:18-20. What is “clemency”? What does this add to your understanding?

COVENANT

The principal connotation is “loyal love.”

Deut. 7:12; 1 Sam 20:8

When the term refers to God, it indicates in general the divine love flowing out to sinners in unmerited kindness.

STABILITY IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD

Look up Ps. 40:10-11; Ps 51:1; 69:16; 63:3.

Look up Exod. 34:6-7

ACCOUNTABILITY

Deut 7:9

Hesed coexists with accountability. Divine mercy extends across generations, though judgment also reaches those who reject it. This tension prevents *hesed* from becoming sentimental—it’s a love that takes sin seriously while refusing to abandon the beloved.

HUMAN RESPONSE

Look up Hosea 6:6

Look up

Ps 40:10–11

the faithfulness of God seems to imply the giving of Jesus Christ—the most convincing proof of divine mercy, kindness, and lovingkindness that could be given to a lost world.