

## Abba God's Love for Us (in Hebrew Words) -- Checed (Lovingkindness)

### Checed (kheh'-sed) in Psalm 36:7

**Psalm 36:7** -- "How **excellent** is thy **lovingkindness**, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings."

The word **lovingkindness** is **checed** (kheh'-sed) in Hebrew. According to **NAS Exhaustive Concordance**, the Hebrew word **checed** (Strong's #2617) includes lovingkindness, lovingkindnesses, unchanging love, **devotion**, favor, kindnesses, deeds of devotion, mercies, loyalty, and goodness in its definition. (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance includes pity as well.)

➤ According to Webster's 1828 dictionary, **excellent** (*i.e.* "yaqar" in Hebrew) means: "Being of great **virtue** or worth... 2. Being of great value or use ..." (Webster)

God's lovingkindness is excellent. It has great virtue or worth. His lovingkindness is efficacious and excels what others have.

➤ According to this same 1828 dictionary, **virtue** means: "1. Strength ... 4. A particular moral excellence ; ... 5. Acting power ; something efficacious. ..." (Webster)

*[Efficacious basically means effective.]*

**Checed** also means devotion. God is devoted to us knowing Him intimately (and God is pursuing us to make Him our all-in-all). And, God has devotion to us. He has affectionate, passionate love for us.

➤ According to this same 1828 dictionary, **devotion** includes in its meaning this particular definition: "6. **Ardent** love or affection..." (Webster)

➤ And, according to the same dictionary, **ardently** (an adverb) means: "With warmth ; affectionately ; passionately." (Webster)

We need to focus on who God is and place into His hands the lies we have believed about Him (2 Corinthians 10:5). God is love, according to 1 John 4:16. He has great, longing, personal, tender, delighting-in-us, affectionate *phileó* love for believers (*if we love Jesus. See John 16:27*). But, He also has great, benevolent, affectionate *agapé* love, which is *unconditional* love, both for born-again Christians and lost souls (John 3:16).

**References:** Webster, Noah. (2009). *American Dictionary of the English Language (First Printing in 1828)*. Baltimore, MA: United Book Press, Inc.