

Hebrew Imagery vs. Greek Abstraction: A Reference Commentary

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Grace

Greek: charis = unmerited favor (abstract). Hebrew: chen = visible favor, hesed = covenant loyalty. Grace is embodied action, not abstraction.

Faith

Greek: pistis = belief, conviction. Hebrew: emunah = steadiness, loyalty, covenant firmness. Faith is walking steady, not mere belief.

Love

Greek: agape = noble abstract love. Hebrew: ahavah = attachment, action; hesed = covenant loyalty. Love is lived faithfulness.

Law

Greek: nomos = law, rule. Hebrew: torah = instruction, guidance, marked path. Torah is covenant teaching, not legal code.

Truth

Greek: aletheia = abstract truth, unhiddenness. Hebrew: emet = firmness, reliability, dependability. Truth is what can be leaned on.

Righteousness

Greek: dikaiosis = legal status. Hebrew: tzedakah = right action, fairness, covenant loyalty. Righteousness is lived justice.

Spirit

Greek: pneuma = spirit, immaterial essence. Hebrew: ruach = wind, breath, vitality. Spirit is Yahweh's breath in motion.

Salvation

Greek: soteria = salvation as status. Hebrew: yeshuah = rescue, deliverance, breathing space. Salvation is rescue in action.

Church

Greek: ekklesia = called-out assembly, later Church institution. Hebrew: qahal = covenant gathering. The Church is a people, not an institution.

Justification

Greek: dikaiosynē = acquittal, verdict. Hebrew: tzedek/tzedakah = alignment, setting right. Justification is being restored into right covenant order.

Repentance

Greek: metanoia = change of mind. Hebrew: shuv = return, turn back. Repentance is movement, not regret.

Peace

Greek: eirene = absence of conflict. Hebrew: shalom = wholeness, completeness, harmony. Peace is fullness of covenant life.

Holiness

Greek: hagios = sacred, abstract purity. Hebrew: kadosh = set apart for Yahweh. Holiness is being marked for His use.

Mystery

Greek: mysterion = hidden, unknowable. Hebrew: sod = council, intimate circle. Mystery is revelation shared in covenant.

Glory

Greek: doxa = splendor, radiance. Hebrew: kavod = weight, substance, presence. Glory is Yahweh's tangible heaviness filling creation.