

“Love” (Hebrew, ‘*h*v or ‘*ahavah*) in the monarchy narrative (1 Samuel – 2 Kings)

PINK = personal “love”; PURPLE = political “love”

“when the verb ‘*a’heb*, ‘to love,’ and the related noun ‘*ahaba*’, ‘love,’ are used elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible to describe erotic and sexual attraction, these terms almost without exception refer to a man’s feelings for a woman.” (Susan Ackerman, *When Heroes Love: The Ambiguity of Eros in the Stories of Gilgamesh and David*, p. 225)

1 SAMUEL

1.5	...to Hannah [Elkanah] gave a double portion, because he loved her...
16.21	David came to Saul, and entered his service. Saul loved him greatly , and he became his armor-bearer.
18.1	When David had finished speaking to Saul, the life of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own life.
18.3	Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own life.
18.16	But all Israel and Judah loved David ; for it was he who marched out and came in leading them.
18.20	Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David . Saul was told, and the thing pleased him.
18.22	Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'See, the king is delighted with you, and all his servants love you ; now then, become the king's son-in-law.'"
18.28	when Saul realized that YHWH was with David, and that Saul's daughter Michal loved him...
20.17	Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him ; for he loved him as he loved his own life.

2 SAMUEL

1.23	Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
1.26	I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.
12.24	Then David consoled his wife Bathsheba, and went to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and he named him Solomon. YHWH loved him...
13.1	David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar; and David's son Amnon fell in love with her.
13.4	Amnon said to [Jonadab], " I love Tamar , my brother Absalom's sister."
13.15	Then Amnon was seized with a very great loathing for her; indeed, his loathing was even greater than the love with which he had loved her.
19.5b-6	"Today you have covered with shame the faces of all your officers who have saved your life today, and the lives of your sons and your daughters, and the lives of your wives and your concubines for love of those who hate you and for hatred of those who love you.

1 KINGS

3.3	Solomon loved YHWH , walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places.
5.1	Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always loved David.
10.9	Because YHWH loved Israel forever, he has made you [Solomon] king to execute justice and righteousness."
11.1-2	King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh... Solomon clung to these in love.