

VERSES ON FRIENDSHIP

Exodus 33:11 11 Thus Yahweh used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his *friend*. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Exodus 34:34-35 34 Whenever Moses went in before Yahweh to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, 35 the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Numbers 12:1-8 1 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. 2 And they said, Has Yahweh indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also? And Yahweh heard it. 3 Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. 4 And suddenly Yahweh said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting. And the three of them came out. 5 And Yahweh came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. 6 And he said, Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I, Yahweh, make myself known to him in a vision. I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful (אמן) in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of Yahweh. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Deuteronomy 13:6-9 6 If your brother, the son of your mother, your son, your daughter, the wife you embrace, or your *friend* who is as your own soul entices you secretly saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known... , 8 you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him. 9 But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

Judges 11:37-38 37 So she said to her father, Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions. 38 So he said, Go. Then he sent her away for two months, and she departed, she and her companions, and wept for her virginity on the mountains.

1 Samuel 18:1-4 1 As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword, his bow, and his belt.

2 Samuel 1:26 26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan. Very pleasant have you been to me. Your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women.

2 Chronicles 20:7 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

Job 2:11 11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him.

Job 6:14 14 He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty (שׁדַי).

Job 19:13-21 13 He has put my brothers far from me, and those who knew me are wholly estranged from me. 14 My relatives have failed me, my close friends have forgotten me. ...19 All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me. 20 My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. 21 Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me!

Psalms 25:14 14 The friendship (סוּד) of Yahweh is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant (בְּרִית).

Psalms 35:14 14 I went about as though I grieved for my friend (רֵעַ) or my brother. As one who laments his mother, I bowed down in mourning.

Psalms 38:11 11 My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off.

Psalms 41:9 9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

Psalms 55:12-20 12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. 13 But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. 14 We used to take sweet counsel together. Within God's house we walked in the throng. ...20 My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant.

Psalms 88:18 18 You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me. My companions have become darkness.

Psalms 119:63 63 I am a companion (חֵבֵר) of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.

Proverbs 13:20 20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 16:28 28 A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:9 9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:17 17 A friend (עֵר; LXX φίλος) loves (אהב; LXX υπάργω)¹ at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:24 24 A man of many companions (עֵר) may come to ruin, but there is a friend (אהב) who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 19:6 6 Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend (עֵר) to a man who gives gifts.

Proverbs 22:11 11 He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend (עֵר).

Proverbs 27:6 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend (אהב). Profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Proverbs 27:9-10 9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. 10 Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor (שֵׁכֵן) who is near than a brother who is far away.

Proverbs 27:17 17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

***Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Sirach 6:10 10 And there are friends who sit at your table, but they will not stand by you in time of trouble.

Sirach 37:6 6 Do not forget a friend during the battle, and do not be unmindful of him when you distribute your spoils.

Isaiah 41:8 8 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham, my friend (אהב)....

Jeremiah 20:10 10 For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him! say all my close friends, watching for my fall. Perhaps he will be deceive.. Then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.

¹ “[T]o really be there, exist, be present, be at one’s disposal” (BDAG, 1029).

Ezekiel 14:13-14 13 Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting faithlessly (לַעֲרֹב), and I stretch out my hand against it and break its supply of bread and send famine upon it, and cut off from it man and beast, 14 even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares Lord Yahweh.

Micah 7:5 5 Put no trust in a neighbor. Have no confidence in a friend. Guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms.

John 13:18 18 I am not speaking of all of you. I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.

John 15:13-15 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends (φίλος). 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants (δοῦλος), 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.²

James 2:21-23 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works. 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God (φίλος θεοῦ).

James 4:4 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship (φιλία) with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend (φίλος) of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

² A master doesn't tell his servants his strategy, but a friend does tell his strategy to his friend.