

HEBREW WORD STUDY:

Tikvah

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Hebrew is a living language. It is a power-filled force that helps us better understand the Bible and the Bible's author. This new series of teachings will dig into the depths of the Holy tongue to find treasures in YHWH's word. These are treasures that have not been hidden from us but are treasures that have been hidden for us to discover. As we step away from our world of electronic devices and dig into the ancient Hebrew language we will indeed find hidden jewels.

The Hebrew language was resurrected from the dead when the nation of Israel was reborn in the last century.

Linguists have dug into historical documents and customs to recreate the Hebrew language that is used today. This is similar to how we must dig past the dirt of religion and falsehood to discover the ancient paths of the Bible.

Speaking of digging, the story is told of some German scientists who dug 50 meters down in the underground and discovered small pieces of copper.

After studying these pieces for a long time, Germany announced that the ancient Germans 25,000 years ago had a nation-wide telephone copper wire network.

The Russian government was not that easily impressed. They ordered their own scientists to dig even deeper. 100 meters down they found small pieces of glass. They soon announced that 35,000 years ago, the ancient Russians already had a nationwide fiber optics network.



The nation of Israel decided that they can also dig up something similar. They dug 50 meters, found nothing. 100 meters also nothing. 200 meters down in the underground, but found absolutely nothing. They thought for a while, then happily announced that Israel 50,000 years ago had already gone wireless!

Like wireless communication today, there is an unseen world that we can tap into if we will just dig in deep. That's why our faith is called the "Hebrew roots movement." Roots are usually down deep, below the surface, and hard to find. The roots of the Hebrew language are an amazing treasure trove to discover as well. The words and ideas that we have today are often rooted in the ancient tongue.



The first word in this series that we're going to discuss describes one of the most basic needs of mankind and one of the most important concepts of the biblical faith. If understood properly, and Biblically, this word will have a huge impact on your life. That's the goal and purpose of this teaching and our ministry, to encourage and equip you to experience the abundant life. We're not just gaining knowledge of the Hebrew language. We're digging deep into the Bible to discover the biblical faith to help with our daily struggles and to provide daily victory.

Victory. That's a phrase seldom used today. Yet there's one thing that victors and winners have that losers don't, and that is hope. Super Bowl champions hope they can repeat their wins. Army generals hope their battle plans bring victory. Kids hope that school lets out early. We must have hope today as well. In Hebrew one of the words translated as hope is "tikvah." This hidden Hebrew gem is much more than just a political catch phrase telling you that things will get better one day. Tikvah is hope super-sized. Tikvah is hope magnified. Tikvah is hope on steroids. It is power for your life and an amazing message from years gone by.

Now, it's important to know that each Hebrew word is built upon and based upon a smaller root word. This is similar to how the word "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" is rooted and based upon the simple word "super." The Hebrew word "tikvah" is rooted and based from the word "qawa" which means to "twist, stretch, wait, or collect." The word picture here is clear that Tikvah is a twisting a stretching from heaven as we wait on our Maker. In fact, the words "hope" and "wait" are often used interchangeably by Bible translators.

The root word for Tikvah is also found in Genesis 49:18. This is a prophetic verse that can only be understood in the holy Hebrew language. In English it reads, "for your salvation I hope O YHWH." In Hebrew this verse says, "Qawa yeshua YHWH." The root word for "tikvah" is found in this prayer by Jacob. It's also in this passage that the patriarch Jacob says the name of our Messiah. Thousands of years before he would be born to a virgin, Jacob says "I have tikvah in

Y'shua" or "I wait upon Y'shua Salvation of YHWH." It is absolutely amazing that Jacob knew the Messiah's name and he recognized that Y'shua would bring hope to the entire world.

It should not surprise us but the national anthem of the nation of Israel is called "Ha Tikvah" or "The Hope." The number one message given to soldiers and citizens in the Promised Land is that of hope. The lyrics to the song explain the hope of the Hebrews. Just read how the lyrics of this song express the prophetic desire of YHWH...

"As long as the Hebrew spirit is yearning deep in the heart
With eyes turned towards the East, looking toward Zion,
Then our hope – the two thousand year old hope – will not be lost
To be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem

"Kol ode balevav P'nimah, Nefesh Yehudi homiya
Ulfta'atey mizrach kadimah, Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah
Ode lo avdah tikvatenu, ha tikvah bat shnot alpayim
L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu – eretz tzion
v'Yerushalayim"



There is a national hope and there is individual hope in this song and in our lives. Hope is part of our message as a believer and as a group of believers. We can have hope that all things are being restored to truth and that the people of YHWH is being put back together. The prophet Ezekiel spoke of this when the dry bones came back together to form one new man. "Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am YHWH, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I YHWH have spoken, and I have done it, declares YHWH,' Ezekiel 37:10-16.

And just as YHWH is bringing together the nation of Israel, YHWH can and will restore your life from the brink of destruction. Jeremiah 29 verse 11 promises us a good hope in the end. Indeed, the message of the Bible is that YHWH first created things wonderful and perfect until sin entered the world. Messiah came to restore all things and we await a redemption that is soon upon us. In this we should take hope that things will be better in the end.

Things will work out for us. We can have hope that all things will blend together for our good in the end. Therefore if things are not good now, then it's not the end! If your situation is dire; if you are in pain; if your heart aches; then it's not the end. YHWH promises you a good

hope in the end. Don't give up! In English, Hope is also in acronym that says, "Hold On Pain Ends." Have hope like the boy in the baseball game. The story is told of a man who approached a little league baseball game one afternoon. He asked a boy in the dugout what the score was. The boy responded, "Eighteen to nothing--we're behind." The spectator said, "I'll bet you're discouraged." The little boy shrugged his shoulders and said, "Why should I be discouraged? We haven't even gotten up to bat yet!" That's hope! Psalm 71:5 says, "you are my tikvah."

In the Hebrew dictionary, tikvah is defined as "a cord, a rope, a line, meaning to bind." If things are really bad and you're given a rope you must make a choice to either tie a knot and hang on for dear life, or to tie a noose and hang yourself. Tikvah is a rope that we can hang on to YHWH with when things are good and bad. It is a cord from heaven, it is a rescue line and a life preserver.

When pain and hurt come your way it's easy to lose hope; to consider things worse than they really are. However, consider Psalm 62, "Yes, my soul, finds rest in YHWH; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on YHWH; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for YHWH is our refuge." This must be our battle cry as we face the wars of worry and doubt. Hope is what gives us strength to carry on. Be comforted that "yesh tikvah" – "there is hope."

Tikvah is that connection between the natural and the supernatural. It is a rope that ties us to heaven. Tikvah is a word used in Psalm 19 as a "line, cord, or circuit" that stretches from heaven to Earth. Our hope is in the One who bridges heaven to Earth. Y'shua is Jacob's ladder and Y'shua is our hope, our tikvah. Proverbs 30 asks us, "who has gone up to heaven and come down? Whose hands have gathered up the wind? Who has wrapped up the waters in a cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is the name of his son?"

Hope, or "tikvah" in Hebrew, is the cry of our hearts and the mission of our message. Tikvah has the power to support you on a bad day and carry you on your worst. And, it is first found in the Bible in a most fascinating story.

After Israel left Egypt and were on their way to the Promised Land they came upon the great walled city of Jericho. Spies were sent to reconnoiter the huge town and they returned to the camp with an exhilarating story.

TIKVAH

While in Jericho the Hebrew spies hid out at the home of a prostitute named Rahab. Rahab promised to keep them safe if they would rescue her family during the impending invasion. As a sign of their agreement (and location of her house) Rahab would tie a red colored rope from the outside of her house. The Israelites would spare anyone in the home with the red rope. That rope was a symbol of hope! In fact, the Hebrew word used for "rope" in this story is the Hebrew term "tikvah." Tikvah is like a rope of hope.



Hanging by a thread?

Hope is an expectation of something better. Despite the circumstances of the present, hope always looks towards the future. Rahab was in a horrible situation. Things were so bad that she was actually selling her body just to make enough money to live. After the visit from the Hebrew spies Rahab finally had some hope for the future. Redemption though was not instant. She still had to wait. Hope is a power that comforts us as we wait upon YHWH. Rahab was faithful to gather her family into her home when destruction came upon Jericho. She shared her hope and rescued others because she knew there was a way out. No matter how bad your life seems right now, take hope – have tikvah that better days are ahead. One place to gain such hope is from the Word of YHWH. His Word is a message of hope for us today. Remember this phrase... “yesh tikvah” – “there is hope.”

There is actually a unique connection between Tikvah and the Torah. In 2 Kings 22 a man named Tikvah has a daughter named Huldah. It is this same Huldah who becomes a prophetess and gives YHWH's message concerning the Torah being found by King Josiah. From this we can understand the Word of YHWH and hope are a packaged deal. The Word brings hope and strengthens tikvah. Get into the Word and let the Word of YHWH get into you until your hope is overflowing.

תקווה
Hope
Tik-VAH

The opposite of tikvah is fear. If hope is the potential of good things to come, then fear is the death of better days. Fear is the absence of tikvah. Know this - just because things are horrible today doesn't mean that it will stay that way. Tikvah gives us a hope for a better tomorrow. That's the challenge with tikvah though. Many people do hope for a good new year or to get well soon. And we all know that things will be great in heaven one day. Tikvah is not a future tense word though. Tikvah is a present tense word for today. We have

the promise of hope in a heavenly home. We also have tikvah for the next sunrise. “For thou art my hope (tikvah), O YHWH: thou art my trust,” Psalm 71:5. Can you say this verse every morning? Hope believes in the face of problems and pain.

A person with tikvah should behave differently than one without hope. When a person has tikvah they pray for rain and they carry an umbrella. A believer hoping for sickness doesn't mope around telling everyone about their symptoms. Someone with tikvah for finances blesses others and gives to the poor. A woman with hope for a new job gets dressed up and puts out resumes without end. A family who hopes for wholeness forgives and takes steps to move on. Tikvah prays for the peace of Jerusalem while the world wages war. Tikvah produces actions. Indeed, there is a cord between tikvah, faith, and works. Hope is the desire and belief that things will get better while faith is evidence of that belief displayed in actions. Faith is also tied to tikvah by Rabbi Sha'ul. He wrote, “these three remain – faith, hope, and love and the greatest of this is love.” Just imagine that as awesome and life changing that tikvah is, the truth of love is even greater. (We'll discuss “ahava” or “love” in the next teaching in this series!)

“What does hope do for mankind? Hope shines brightest when the hour is darkest. Hope motivates when discouragement comes. Hope energizes when the body is tired. Hope sweetens when the bitterness bites. Hope sings when all melodies are gone. Hope believes when the evidence is eliminated. Hope listens for answers when no one is talking. Hope climbs over obstacles when no one is helping. Hope endures hardship when no one is caring. Hope smiles confidently when no one is laughing. Hope reaches for answers when no one is asking. Hope presses toward victory when no one is encouraging. Hope dares to give when no one is sharing. Hope brings the victory when no one is winning. There is nothing to do but bury a man when his hopes are gone. Losing hope usually precedes loss of life itself. You don't need a better environment; you need more hope. It's the one thing in your life you cannot do without,” wrote John Maxwell.

A number of years ago researchers performed an experiment to see the effect hope has on those undergoing hardship. Two sets of laboratory rats were placed in separate tubs of water. The researchers left one set in the water and found that within an hour they had all drowned. The other rats were periodically lifted out of the water and then returned. When that happened, the second set of rats swam for over 24 hours. Why? Not because they were given a rest, but because they suddenly had hope! Tikvah can energize your faith because it sees the unseen. Those animals somehow hoped that if they could stay afloat just a little longer, someone would reach down and rescue them. If



hope holds such power for unthinking rodents, how much greater should its effect be on our lives.

Can you feel the *tikvah* of YHWH rising up in your spirit as you read this teaching? YHWH wants to fill you with His *tikvah* and empower you towards victory. Stop seeing the glass half empty. Take your focus off your bills and bosses. Look to Maker of heaven and earth and have *tikvah*. YHWH's word is living and effective. His word, even just the singular word *tikvah*, will never return unto void. It will accomplish all that He desires in your life as you pray and believe for *tikvah*. Walk in its strength and pray *tikvah* over the situations in your life. Believe for the best. YHWH has promised you a good hope in the end. *Yesh tikvah* – there is hope! Zechariah 9:12 says that as believers, we are “prisoners of *tikvah*” as we turn to YHWH and trust Him in spite of the horrors of life.

The hidden Hebrew word “*tikvah*” is hope and so much more. By looking past the English translation and into the ancient tongue we can know the truth better. Consider these verses as you meditate and study the concept of “hope.” Know that “YHWH *tikvahtenu*” or “YHWH is our hope” and an ever present help in times of trouble.

The next Hebrew word study will be a discussion of “*ahava*” or “love.” Don't miss this teaching and another opportunity to dig deep to discover the depths and gems of YHWH's Hebrew word.

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