



*“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”*

## **The Hebrew Root of Grace**

The Hebrew word for Grace is “*chen*.” It is composed of the Hebrew letters *chet* (pictured by a fence, meaning private, or to separate from outside) and *noon* (pictured by a seed of life or later a fish, meaning activity, life, continue, or heir). The word itself means “beauty or loveliness,” and literally in the paleo-Hebrew means “*to separate from the outside*” or “*protect life*.”

Before moving on, it should be noted that this single, simple Hebrew word is translated into English using numerous words including grace, favor, charm, acceptance, kindness, pleasant, precious, and elegance.

As we note in our teaching “[How to Test Everything](#),” Hebrew thinking is concrete (seen, touched, smelled, tasted or heard; action oriented) while Greek thinking is more abstract (concepts or ideas, almost always used by English translators even to this day). This explains the common motivation by translators to use various English words for the same Hebrew word.

This difference in thinking is one of the reasons we don’t always find the word “grace” in our English translations of the Torah (the first five books of Moses).

The English word “grace” as we understand it, which we accept to mean “unmerited favor,” (for a loose definition) is fairly abstract. In Hebrew, we must understand it in more concrete terms, which provides a wonderful picture.

It is also precisely why it is of such value in key word studies to go back to the original paleo-Hebrew, which is the alef-bet (alphabet) used for most of the Tanakh (or Old Testament), and all of Torah.

This Hebrew word “*chen*” is linguistically related and part of the root “*cha-nan*” and “*channun*” meaning “to be inclined toward or favor” and “*cha-nah*” meaning “to incline,

or to make camp.” Another way of understanding this is that we favor or make camp with one or those acceptable to us, and to find favor (grace) in someone’s eyes is also to find them beautiful. These related words may be found over 250 times throughout the Tanakh alone.

Notice how “*chanah*” is used in relation to those who would camp near to the Tabernacle.

**Numbers 1:52**

The sons of Israel shall camp (“*chanah*”), each man by his own camp, and each man by his own standard, according to their armies.

A good example of the use of “*chen*” in the Tanakh is in the story of Noah.

**Genesis 6:8**

But Noah found grace (“*chen*”) in the eyes of YHVH.

The most observant or those with some basic Hebrew knowledge might also notice that same two Hebrew letters make up the name Noah, or Noach (“*noon-chet*”), which means “resting,” or literally in the paleo-Hebrew “the heir separated from the outside,” as while in the ark.

Moses also received God’s grace.

**Exodus 33:13-14**

Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor (“*chen*”) in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor (“*chen*”) in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people.” And He said, “My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest (“*nuach*”).”

**Exodus 34:6**

YHVH passed before him and proclaimed, “YHVH, YHVH El (God), a God merciful and *gracious* (“*channun*”), slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

The word in the Greek Septuagint for grace is “*charis*” and means “that which affords pleasure or delight,” “loving-kindness, favor,” or “thanks.” This same word used in the New Testament is used identically.

**John 1:17**

For the Law was given through Moses; grace (“*charis*”) and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Remember also, from our teaching "[Grafted In](#)," the Law wasn't just for natural born Israel, but also the alien (from the nations/or Gentiles) to be grafted into Israel and to be counted the same as Israel with the same law, no differences.

**Exodus 12:49**

The same law applies to the native-born and to the alien living among you.

**Psalms 84:11**

"For YHVH God is a sun and shield: YHVH will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

In Hebraic terms, this would be understood to present a consistent message, God provides instruction (Torah) for those He favors, and what He considers beautiful is protected from the outside world through Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah.

We see clearly that grace is not a new concept presented for the first time in the New Testament, rather it is present throughout the whole Bible, and God has offered it, it has been required, from the beginning.

So, if we want to encamp near God with His protection, or have Him consider us beautiful enough to protect, then we must receive "chen" or His grace. God's grace through Yeshua is the primary way of how God revealed His love for us in full.

For more on grace and how it relates to faith and obedience, please see our teaching, "[Grace, Faith, and Obedience](#)."

We hope that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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