

What does God say that He loves?

- In the Old Testament, these are the things that God says He loves or that someone else says that God loves:
 - Israel: Deut. 7:8, 7:13, 23:5; Isa. 43:4; Jer. 31:2; Hos. 11:1, 14:4; Mal 1:2
 - Immigrants to Israel: Deut. 10:18, Jer. 2:25
 - Leaders of Israel: Deut 4:37, 10:15; Isa. 41:8
 - Jerusalem: Ps. 87:2
 - God's sanctuary: Mal. 2:11
 - King Cyrus, the Persian ruler God anointed to fight wars to deliver Israel from Babylon: Isa. 48:14
- The only things that God says that He loves, other than something connected to Israel, are justice and righteousness:
 - For the LORD is righteous [*saddiq*]; He loves righteousness [*sedeqah*] (Psalm 11:7a NASB)
 - He loves righteousness [*sedeqah*] and justice [*mishpat*]. (Psalm 33:5a NASB)
 - For the LORD loves justice [*mishpat*]. (Psalm 37:28a NASB)
 - You have loved righteousness [*sedeq*] and hated wickedness. (Psalm 45:7a NASB)
 - The strength of the King loves justice [*mishpat*]. (Psalm 99:4a NASB)
 - The LORD loves the righteous [*saddiq*]. (Psalm 146:8b NASB)
 - He loves one who pursues righteousness [*sedeqah*]. (Proverbs 15:9b NASB)
 - For I the LORD love justice [*mishpat*]. (Isaiah 61:8a NASB)
- Out of everything that God says He loves in the whole Old Testament, God singles out His chosen people, righteousness, and justice.
- Learning about Biblical justice and righteousness makes us more connected to God's heart.
- "but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice [*mishpat*], and righteousness [*sedeqah*] in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:24 ESV)
 - To know and understand God is to know that He does justice and righteousness
- In the Bible, the poor don't have a special relationship to God's love, but they do have a special relationship to His justice.