

COUNTED

*Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he **counted** it to him for righteousness*

In the Old Testament, counted which is the Hebrew word hashab defined as think, plan, make a judgment, imagine, count, and devise.

The derivatives of this word are three verbs and one noun.

Hesheb (v) – ingenious work,

Heshbon (v) – reckoning, account,

Hishshabon (v) – a device

Mahashaba (n) – thought, plan, invention

Thought -

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5

Plan –

And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices (plans), and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart. Jeremiah 18:12

Invention -

The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skillful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device (invention) which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father. 2 Chronicles 2:14

Six clear variations of the basic thought of this root, hashab, can be found in the Old Testament.

Planning or Devising

Zechariah 7:8-10 And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, ⁹ Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: ¹⁰ And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless,

the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you **imagine** (devise) evil against his brother in your heart.

Genesis 50:15-21 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him. ⁶ And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, ¹⁷ So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. ¹⁸ And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. ¹⁹ And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, ye **thought** (planned) evil against me; *but* God **meant** (planned) it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive. ²¹ Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

Making a Judgment

Psalms 44:17-26 All this is come upon us; yet have we not forgotten thee, neither have we dealt falsely in thy covenant. ¹⁸ Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way; ¹⁹ Though thou hast sore broken us in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death. ²⁰ If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god; ²¹ Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart. ²² Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are **counted** (hashab) as sheep for the slaughter. ²³ Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off forever. ²⁴ Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and forgettest our affliction and our oppression? ²⁵ For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaveth unto the earth. ²⁶ Arise for our help and redeem us for thy mercies' sake.

Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did **esteem** (judge) him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, *he* was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Job 33:8-13 Surely thou hast spoken in mine hearing, and I have heard the voice of *thy* words, *saying*, ⁹ I am clean without transgression, I *am* innocent; neither *is there* iniquity in me. ¹⁰ Behold, he findeth occasions against me, he **counteth** (judges) me for his enemy, ¹¹ He putteth my feet in the stocks, he marketh all my paths. ¹² Behold, *in this* thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man. ¹³ Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.

Meditating

Malachi 3:16-18 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that **thought** (meditated) upon his name. ¹⁷ And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. ¹⁸ Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Psalms 144:1-8 Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, *and* my fingers to fight: ² My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and *he* in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me. ³ LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest **account** (have thoughts) of him! ⁴ Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away. ⁵ Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. ⁶ Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them. ⁷ Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children; ⁸ Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

To Impute

Genesis 15:2-6 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house *is* this Eliezer of Damascus? ³ And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. ⁴ And, behold, the word of the LORD *came* unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. ⁵ And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. ⁶ And he believed in the LORD; and he **counted** (Imputed) it to him for righteousness.

Psalms 32:1-6 Blessed *is he* whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD **imputeth** not iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile. ³ When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. ⁴ For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. ⁵ I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. ⁶ For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

To Invent

Exodus 35:30-35 And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; 32 And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, 33 And in the cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. 34 And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that **devise** (invent) cunning work.

2 Chronicles 26:14-15 And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and coats of mail, and bows, and slings *to cast stones*. 15 And he made in Jerusalem engines, **invented** by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the walls, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.

Accounting

Leviticus 25:23-28 The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land *is mine*; for ye *are* strangers and sojourners with me. ²⁴ And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land. ²⁵ If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away *some* of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold. ²⁶ And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it; ²⁷ Then let him **count** (perform bookkeeping) the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession. ²⁸ But if he be not able to restore *it* to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubilee: and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.