

רוח

Meaning:

- Wind
- Breath
- Spirit

Noun. Occurs about 380 times in the Old Testament.

The word רוח (ruach) is a richly layered term with several interconnected meanings depending on context. It is one of the most theologically significant words in Scripture.

The root idea is movement of air, which naturally extends into several related senses:

- Wind – a literal breeze or storm (e.g., “wind of the sea” in [Exodus 10:13](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigExodus 10:13

Hebrew וַיֹּט מֹשֶׁה אֶת מִטְהוֹ עַל אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיְהִי הָרוּחַ קָדִים בְּאֶרֶץ כָּל הַיּוֹם הַהוּא וְכָל הַלַּיְלָה הַבֹּקֶר הָיָה הָרוּחַ קָדִים וַיָּבֵא אֶת הַחֲרָבָה עַל הָאָרֶץ
ESV So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts.

καὶ ἐπῆρεν τὴν ῥάβδον αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ὅλην τὴν ἡμέραν...

- Breath – the animating force in living beings (e.g., “the breath of life” in [Genesis 6:17](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigGenesis 6:17

Hebrew וְאֲנִי הֹנֵנִי מִבֵּיא אֶת הַמַּבּוּל מִיָּם עַל הָאָרֶץ לְשַׁחֵת כָּל בֶּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר בּוֹ רוּחַ חַיִּים מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם כָּל אֲשֶׁר יָנוּעַ

ESV For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. NIV I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in i...).

- Spirit – an invisible, life-giving, and personal force—whether human, angelic, or divine

So רוח can refer to anything from a physical wind to the spiritual presence of God.

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