

## Mercy

**Mercy** 𐤒𐤒𐤓 H2617 kheh'·sed, masculine noun, from 𐤒𐤒𐤓 (H2616).

𐤒𐤒𐤓 properly – *desire, ardour* (see the root), whence (1) in a good sense, *zeal* towards any one, *love, kindness*, specially—(a) of men amongst themselves, *benignity, benevolence*, as shown in mutual benefits; *mercy, pity*, when referring to those in misfortune, Gen. 21:23; 2 Sam. 10:2; Job 6:14.—(b) *piety* of men towards God.—(c) *the grace, favor, mercy* of God towards men. It is often joined with 𐤒𐤒𐤓𐤓 constant or abiding favor. (2) in a bad sense, *zeal, ardour against* any one, *envy*, hence *reproach*. Prov. 14:34; Lev. 20:17.

The KJV translates Strong's H2617 in the following manner: mercy (149x), kindness (40x), lovingkindness (30x), goodness (12x), kindly (5x), merciful (4x), favour (3x), good (1x), goodness (1x), pity (1x), reproach (1x), wicked thing (1x). Total: 248x.

𐤒𐤒𐤓 H2616 khä·sad', verb, primitive root.

The primary signification appears to me to be that of EAGER AND ARDENT DESIRE by which any one is led. (1) *to love, desire* towards any one. (2) to emulation, *envy*.

The KJV translates Strong's H2616 in the following manner: show thyself merciful (2x), put to shame (1x).

ἐλεέω G1653 e-le-e'-ō, verb, from ἔλεος (G1656)

The KJV translates Strongs G1653 in the following manner: have mercy on (14x), obtain mercy (8x), show mercy (2x), have compassion (1x), have compassion on (1x), have pity on (1x), have mercy (1x), have mercy upon (1x), receive mercy (1x).

1. to have mercy on
2. to help one afflicted or seeking aid
3. to help the afflicted, to bring help to the wretched
4. to experience mercy

ἐλεέω, -ῶ; fut. ἐλεήσω; 1 aor. ἠλέησα; Pass., 1 aor. ἠλεήθην; 1 fut. ἐλεηθήσομαι; pf. pter. ἠλεημένος; (ἔλεος); fr. Hom. down; Sept. most freq. for יָנַח to be gracious, also for רָחַם to have mercy; several times for חָנַן to spare, and נָחַם to console; *to have mercy on*: τινά [W. § 32, 1 b. a.], *to succor* one afflicted or seeking aid, Mt. ix. 27; xv. 22; xvii. 15; xviii. 33; xx. 30 sq.; Mk. v. 19 [here, by zeugma (W. § 66, 2 e.), the ὅσα is brought over with an adverbial force (W. 463 (431 sq.), *how*]; x. 47 sq.; Lk. xvi. 24; xvii. 13; xviii. 38 sq.; Phil. ii. 27; Jude 22 Rec.; absol. *to succor the afflicted, to bring help to the wretched*, [A. V. *to show mercy*], Ro. xii. 8; pass. *to experience* [A. V. *obtain*] *mercy*, Mt. v. 7. Spec. of God granting even to the unworthy favor, benefits, opportunities, and particularly salvation by Christ: Ro. ix. 15, 16 R (i (see ἐλεάω), 18; xi. 32; pass., Ro. xi. 30 sq.; 1 Co. vii. 25; 2 Co. iv. 1; 1 Tim. i. 13, 16; 1 Pet. ii. 10.\*

[SYN. ἐλεέω, οἰκτείρω: ἐλ. to feel sympathy with the misery of another, esp. such sympathy as manifests itself in act, less freq. in word; whereas οἰκτ. denotes the inward feeling of compassion which abides in the heart. A criminal begs ἔλεος of his judge; but hopeless suffering is often the object of οἰκτιρμός. Schmidt ch. 143. On the other hand, Fritzsche (Com. on Rom. vol. ii. p. 315) makes οἰκτ. and its derivatives the stronger terms: ἐλ. the generic word for the feeling excited by another's misery; οἰκτ. the same, esp. when it calls (or is suited to call) out exclamations and tears.]

(related entry)

ἐλεάω, adopted for the more com. ἐλεέω (q. v.) by L T Tr WH in Ro. ix. 16 and Jude 23, [also by WH Tr mrg. in 22]; (Prov. xxi. 26 cod. Vat.; 4 Macc. ix. 3 var.; Clem. Rom. 1 Cor. 13, 2; Polyc. ad Philip. 2, 2). Cf. W. 85 (82); B. 57 (50); [Mullach p. 252; WH. App. p. 166; Tdf. Proleg. p. 122].\*

ἔλεος G1656 e'-le-os, neuter noun.

The KJV translates Strongs G1656 in the following manner: mercy (28x).

1. mercy: kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them
  - a. of men towards men: to exercise the virtue of mercy, show one's self merciful
  - b. of God towards men: in general providence; the mercy and clemency of God in providing and offering to men salvation by Christ
  - c. the mercy of Christ, whereby at his return to judgment he will bless true Christians with eternal life

Mercy -- Webster 1828

MER'CY, noun [Latin misericordia.]

1. That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant. In this sense, there is perhaps no word in our language precisely synonymous with mercy That which comes nearest to it is grace. It implies benevolence, tenderness, mildness, pity or compassion, and clemency, but exercised only towards offenders. mercy is a distinguishing attribute of the Supreme Being.

The Lord is long-suffering and of great mercy forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty. Numbers 14:18.

2. An act or exercise of mercy or favor. It is a mercy that they escaped.

I am not worthy of the least of all thy mercies. Genesis 32:1.

3. Pity; compassion manifested towards a person in distress.

And he said, he that showed mercy on him. Luke 10:37.

4. Clemency and bounty.

Mercy and truth preserve the king; and his throne is upheld by mercy Proverbs 28:13.

5. Charity, or the duties of charity and benevolence.

I will have mercy and not sacrifice. Matthew 9:13.

6. Grace; favor. 1 Corinthians 7:25. Jude 1:2.

7. Eternal life, the fruit of mercy 2 Timothy 1:2.

8. Pardon.

I cry thee mercy with all my heart.

9. The act of sparing, or the forbearance of a violent act expected. The prisoner cried for mercy To be or to lie at the mercy of, to have no means of self-defense, but to be dependent for safety on the mercy or compassion of another, or in the power of that which is irresistible; as, to be at the mercy of a foe, or of the waves.



רחם H7355 rä·kham', verb, a primitive root.

The KJV translates Strongs H7355 in the following manner: ...mercy (32x), ...compassion (8x), pity (3x), love (1x), merciful (1x), Ruhamah (1x), surely (1x), Total: 47x.

1. to love, love deeply, have mercy, be compassionate, have tender affection, have compassion
  - a. (Qal) to love
  - b. (Piel)
    - i. to have compassion, be compassionate
      - 1) of God, man
  - c. (Pual) to be shown compassion, be compassionate

רחם fut. ירחם ["prop. TO BE SOFT;" hence—] TO LOVE, Ps. 18:2. (Syr. رَحِم, Arab. رَحِم and رَحِم id. The primary idea appears to be in cherishing, soothing, and in a gentle emotion of the mind; compare רָחַף.)

PIEL רָחַם, inf. רָחַם, fut. יִרְחַם to behold with tenderest affection, to compassionate, followed by an acc. Ex. 33:19; Deu. 13:18; 30:3; followed by על Psa. 103:13; used of the love of parents towards their children, Psa. loc. cit.; Isa. 49:15; and of the compassion of God towards men, Ps. 116:5.

PUAL רָחַם to obtain mercy, Prov. 28:13; Hosea 14:4; compare 1:6.

Derivatives, רָחַם—רָחַמְנִי, רָחִים, and pr. n. רָחִים, לֹא רָחַמָּה, יִרְחַמְאֵל, יִרְחַמְאֵל.

רחם H2550 khä·mal', verb, a primitive root.

1. (Qal) to spare, pity, have compassion on.  
The KJV translates Strongs H2550 in the following manner: pity (18x), spare (18x), have compassion (5x), Total: 41x.

רחם fut. ירחם inf. רחם Eze. 16:5, TO BE MILD, GENTLE. (Arab. with the letters transposed رَحِم to be gentle, longsuffering, رَحِيمٌ μακροθυμία, رحيم gentle. The primary idea is that of softness, and this signification is preserved in the Greek, ἀμαλός, ἀπαλός.) Hence—

(1) to pity, to have compassion on, followed by על of pers. Ex. 2:6; 1 Sa. 23:21.

(2) to spare, followed by על 1 Sam. 15:3, 15; 2 Sa. 21:7; 2 Ch. 36:15, 17; followed by אל Isa. 9:18; also, to be sparing of any thing, to use sparingly, followed by אל Jer. 50:14; ל with inf. 2 Sa. 12:4; על Job 20:13; Ezekiel 36:21, "I will be sparing of my holy name," I will care for its honour.

Hence רָחַם (unless it be from the Arab. رحل) [also pr. n. רָחִים] and—

נָחַם H5162 nä·kham', verb, a primitive root.

The KJV translates Strong's H5162 in the following manner: comfort (57x), repent (41x), comforter (9x), ease (1x), Total: 108x.

1. to be sorry, console oneself, repent, regret, comfort, be comforted

a. (Niphal)

i. to be sorry, be moved to pity, have compassion

ii. to be sorry, rue, suffer grief, repent

iii. to comfort oneself, be comforted

iv. to comfort oneself, ease oneself

b. (Piel) to comfort, console

c. (Pual) to be comforted, be consoled

d. (Hithpael)

i. to be sorry, have compassion

ii. to rue, repent of

iii. to comfort oneself, be comforted

iv. to ease oneself

נָחַם unused in Kal, prop. onomatopoe. to draw the breath forcibly, TO PANT, TO GROAN; like the Arab. نَحِم; cogn. roots נָחַם (comp. נָחַם and נָחַם), and נָחַם, which see.

NIPHAL נָחַם—(1) *to lament, to grieve* (as to the use of passive and middle forms in verbs of emotion, compare נִנְחַם, δδύρομαι, contristari, etc.)—(a) because of the misery of others; whence, *to pity*. Constr. absol. Jer. 15:6, נִנְחַם הַיְהוָה “I am weary of pitying;” followed by על Psal. 90:13; לָלֹדָה Jud. 21:6; לָלֹדָה verse 15; מִן Jud. 2:18.—(b) because of one's own actions; whence, *to repent* (compare Germ. reuen, which formerly and still in Switzerland is *to grieve*, Engl. *to rue*), Exod. 13:17; Gen. 6:6, 7; const. followed by על Ex. 32:12, 14; Jer. 8:6; 18:8, 10; לָלֹדָה 2 Sa. 24:16; Jer. 26:3.

(2) reflex. of Piel *to comfort oneself*, [*to be comforted*], Gen. 38:12; followed by על on account of any thing, 2 Sa. 13:39; and נִנְחַם i. e. for any one's loss, Gen. 24:67. From the idea of being consoled it becomes—

(3) *to be revenged, to take vengeance*, as, to use the words of Aristotle (Rhet. ii. 2), τῆ ὀργῆ ἐπεται ἡδονή τις ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ τιμωρήσασθαι. Followed by מִן Isa. 1:24 (compare Eze. 5:13; 31:16; 32:31); see HITHPAEL, No. 3.

PIEL נָחַם *to comfort* (prop. to signify, to declare grief or pity), followed by an acc. of pers., Genesis 50:21; Job 2:11; also מִן of the thing on account of which one is comforted, Gen. 5:29; and על Isaiah 22:4; 1 Ch. 19:2. It sometimes includes the notion of help put forth, especially when used of God, Isa. 12:1; 49:13; 51:3, 12; 52:9; Ps. 23:4; 71:21; 86:17.

PUAL נָחַם *to be comforted*, Isa. 54:11. Part. נִנְחָם for מְנַחֵם Isa. 54:11.

HITHPAEL הִתְנַחֵם, once הִתְנַחֵם Eze. 5:13; i. q. Niph. but less frequently used.

(1) *to grieve*—(a) on account of any one, *to pity*, followed by על Deut. 32:36; Psalm 135:14.—(b) *to repent*, Nu. 23:19.

(2) *to comfort oneself, to be comforted*, Genesis 37:35; Ps. 119:52.

(3) *to take vengeance*, Gen. 27:42, הִנֵּה עֹשֵׂוֹ אֶחָיו, הִנֵּה לְהַרְגֶנִּי “behold Esau thy brother will take vengeance by killing thee.”

Derivative nouns, נְחֻמָּים, נְחֻמָּים, נְחֻמָּים, pr. n. נְחֻמָּים, מְנַחֵם, and those which follow.