

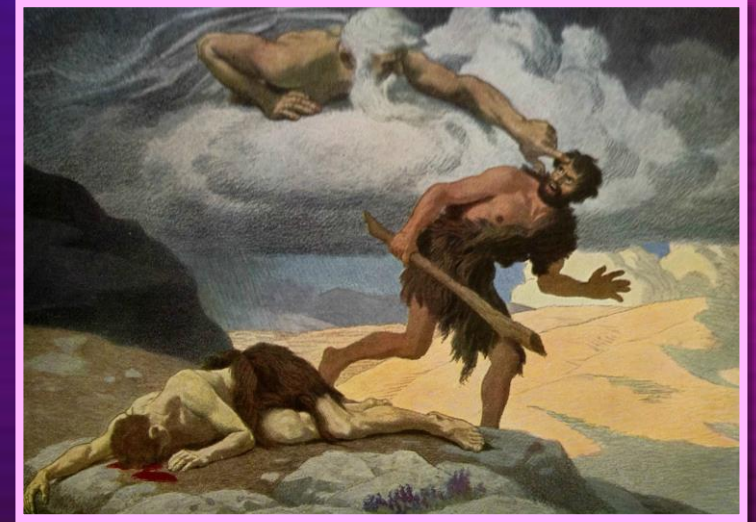
**DIVINE  
MERCY**



# “HAVE MERCY ON US” (Psalm 123:3)

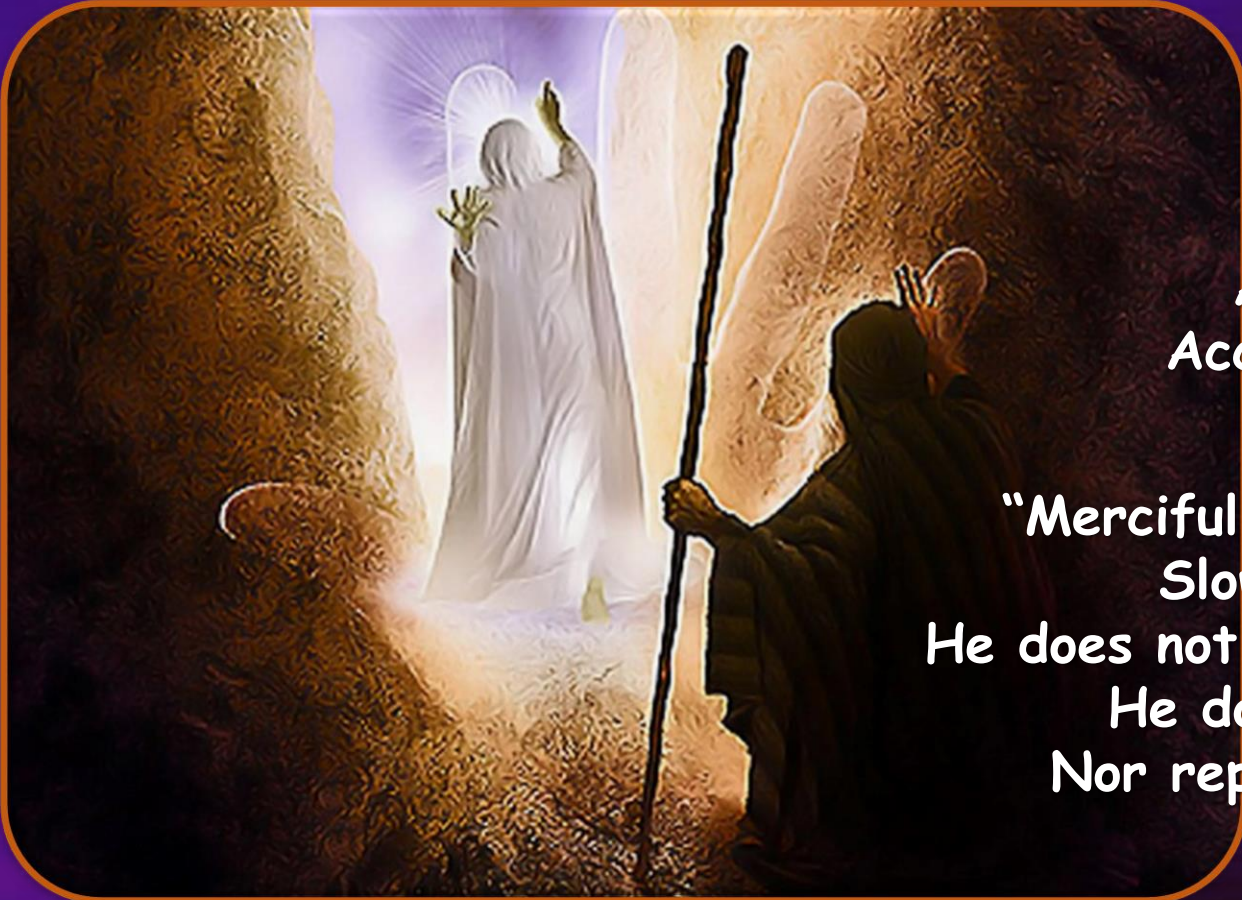
Mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom you have the power to punish or harm. That is precisely what God did with Cain. It is the main quality with which God presented himself to Moses.

When Psalms speaks of God's mercy, it uses three different Hebrew words: “hesed,” “raham,” and “hanan.”



“God, have mercy [ **hanan** ] on me,  
According to your loving goodness [ **hesed** ],  
According to your immense tenderness [ **raham** ],  
“Blot out my transgressions” (Psalm 51:1)

“Merciful [ **raham** ] and gracious [ **hanan** ] is the Lord,  
Slow to anger, and great in love [ **hesed** ].  
He does not always rebuke, nor does he keep anger forever,  
He does not treat us as our iniquities deserve,  
Nor repays us according to our sins” (Psalm 103:8-10)





# HESED

It is the most used Hebrew word and its best translation would be: “loving kindness.” In what contexts does God manifest this loving kindness?

During calamity, persecution, illness, storm or persecution.  
Psalm 40:11-12; 57:1-4

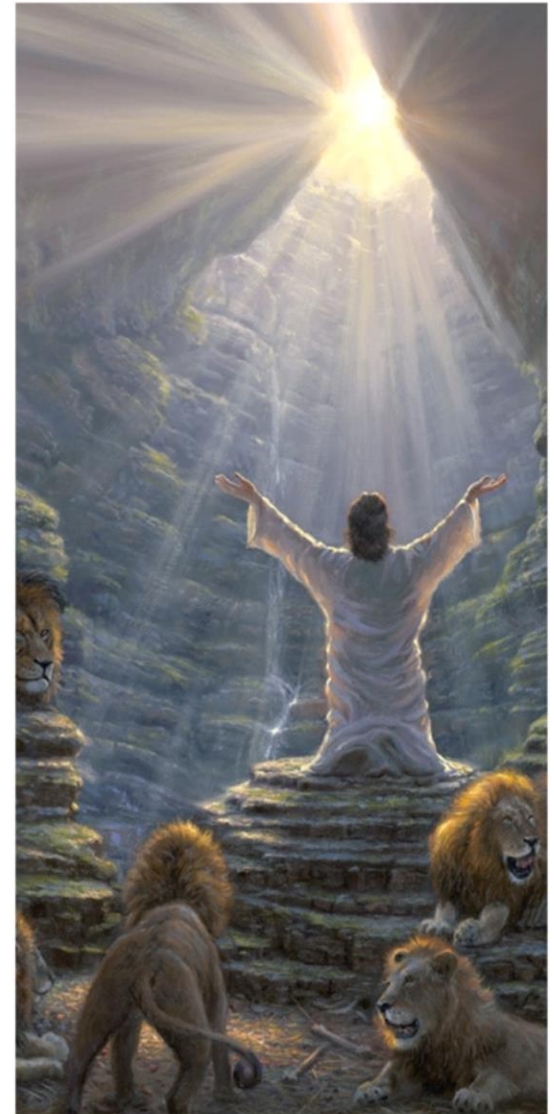
To free the captive from danger or give freedom.  
Psalm 59:16-17; 94:18; 109:26

To enliven. Psalm 119:88, 149, 159

To protect. Psalm 32:10; 36:10-11

To give hope. Psalm 33:18, 22; 147:11

In relation to eternity.  
Psalm 89:2, 28; 100:5; 103:7; 106:1; 117:2; 138:8



# RAHAM

*Raham* comes from a Hebrew noun that means “womb,” a word that contains within itself the idea of a mother's tender care for her baby.



**Nehemiah 1:11;  
Psalm 106:46**

**Kindness  
towards a  
subordinate**

**Antithesis  
of anger**

**Amos 1:11;  
Zechariah 1:12-17**

**Kindness that  
far exceeds  
what anyone  
deserves**

**Genesis 43:14;  
1 Kings 8:50**

The Lord shows his compassion to those who have been affected by sin and who have failed him. Although we are not worthy of his mercy, he lifts us up by his grace and restores us to his favor.



***Hanan*** is a verb that means “to favor, to be merciful, generous, to take pity on someone.” It is usually used in the expression “to find favor in the eyes of...” ( eg. Ruth 2:13), although it is mainly used with God as the subject. When does God show his favor?

# HANAN



He grants it to those who desire it  
(Gen. 6:8; Pr. 3:3-4; Is. 30:19)

He retains it when he is rejected  
(Jer. 16:13)

He shows it by giving food to those who  
need it (Ps. 111:4-5)

He requests it who knows God  
(Ps. 4:1; 86:15-17)

We long for God to show it with us  
(Ps. 123:2)

We imitate God when we show Him to  
others (Ps. 37:21, 26; 112:4-5)