



## December 2025 Update

### Tracing One Word

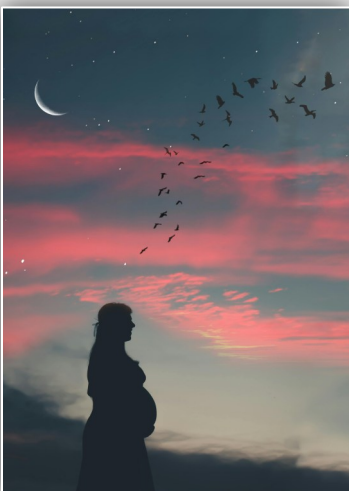
Have you tried tracing one word or idea throughout Scripture? Some call this “letting the Bible interpret itself.” I’ve been considering **compassion**. I’m daunted by reaching out—thinking that I won’t do or say the “right” thing. That I’ll fail to meet their need. Or that I’ll misunderstand what they want. And that what I do offer won’t be enough. But, (God repeats to me) none of us can be enough *on our own*. Only through connection with the Spirit can we emulate our Father.

**“So imitate God and be truly compassionate, the way your Father is.”**

**—Matthew 9:36 VOICE**

Each of us were created for relationship with our Triune God. Yahweh is Self-described as “**compassionate** and gracious, slow to anger and abounding with loyal love and faithfulness” (Exodus 34:6 *LEB*). The character trait of

**compassion** is repeated around eighty-two times by Old Testament prophets and poets (Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 86:15 and Jonah 4:2). And by New Testament writers (Mark 8:2, Ephesians 4:32, James 5:11).



### A Compassionate God

According to [BibleProject.com](https://www.bibleproject.com), the Hebrew word translated as compassionate in Exodus 34:6 is *rakhum*. That is, taking action because you are “deeply moved” in the “center of your being”. *Rakhamim* is the noun: compassion. For example, God is compelled by *rakhamim* to rescue Israel from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 3:7). And God is *rakhum* for Israel as His own child (Jeremiah 31:20, Hosea 11:8). Tellingly, these words are closely related to *rekhem*—the Hebrew word for womb. God often uses maternal images for His relationship with Israel.

**Eternal One: “Is it possible for a mother, to forget her nursing child? Can she [lack compassion] for the baby she carried and birthed? Even if she could, I [God] will never forget you [Israel].”**

**—Isaiah 49:15 TLV**

Indeed, through Mary of Nazareth God entered the suffering of His creatures. “The virgin will be with child, and she will give birth to a Son, and she will name Him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14 *NCB*). Our Creator entered a womb to be born into our broken world. A world even now “groaning in labor pains” (Romans 8:22). Mary sings of this Mystery in her womb as God’s “[rescue of] Israel His child, because He remembered His *compassion* of old” (Luke 1:54).

## First-born Babies and Flawless Lambs

Through an astounding Mystery, the LORD gives His people a sign: a first-born child who enters the world as a sacrificial lamb—a flawless Passover offering—swaddled in a manger (Luke 2:7, 12 & 16). Announced by angels, not priests. Received by shepherds, not kings. The prophesy of Isaiah bears repeating: “She will give birth to a Son; and you shall call His name Yeshua, for He will save His people from their [rebellions]” (Matthew 1:21).

Compassion wrapped in flesh (Luke 1:78).



**“This is the irrational season / When love blooms bright and wild.  
Had Mary been filled with reason / There'd have been no room for the child.”  
—Madeleine L'Engle “After Annunciation”**

In Jesus' stories—whether those of widows or prodigal sons—we see compassion outpoured! Compassion in Greek is *oiktirmos*. Yeshua effused *oiktirmos* on the demon-possessed (Matthew 17:15), the sick (Mark 1:41), the hungry (Matthew 15:32), the spiritually blind (Mark 6:34). Jesus compared Himself to a mother hen longing to shelter prodigal chicks under outstretched wings (Matthew 23:37).

## It Would Have Been Enough

According to [MyJewishLearning.com](http://MyJewishLearning.com), the *dayenu* is “traditionally sung at the Passover seder.” It recounts various acts of God's kindness, emphasizing appreciation by ending each recitation with the Hebrew word *dayenu*—“it would have been enough.” The *dayenu* may also be spoken: “If He had brought us out from Egypt and not carried out the judgements against them, it would have been enough.” ... “If He had killed their firstborn and had not given us their wealth, it would have been enough.” And so on, recounting the Exodus story.

In Season 5, episode 4 of *The Chosen*, the *dayenu* is beautifully incorporated. The women who follow Jesus give thanks to Him at their own Passover meal, as each recounts what Yeshua did for her. Mary of Nazareth begins: “If I had only been given the joy of holding You in my arms that night in Bethlehem ... and not been able to see You perform signs and wonders, it would have been enough.” Each woman at the table continues. ... For my part: “If I had only been brought to Tacoma to do creative work with SPF and not been able to use my God-given talents in my employment, it would have been enough.”

## Praises and Prayer Requests

**TEMPORARY WORK PRAISE!** I've begun a short-term job and am grateful for the income.

**REQUEST** Please ask Yahweh Jireh for a well-suited permanent position, so I can move forward in the coming year!

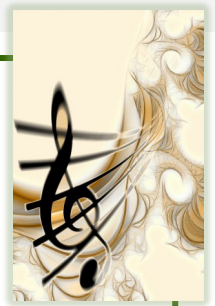
**NAIM VISIT PRAISE!** I'm grateful for the practical support and regular encouragement provided by the

NAIM staff! **REQUEST** Please pray for my NAIM supervisor, Tim Christensen, who travels often for quarterly visits.

**HOLIDAYS IN TACOMA PRAISE!** As I'm far from relatives for Thanksgiving & Christmas, I'm thankful for friends & church family. **REQUEST** Please ask the Spirit for creativity and insight to build relationships with those who are far away.

Please consider a year-end gift for my work at SPF (Sacred Path Fellowship)  
in Tacoma. Thank you!

*Tara*



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