

Mary's Double Entendre: The Unfailing Love of God Expressed through Her Womb

MERCY	COMPASSION
ἔλεος, <i>eleos</i>	οἰκτιρμός, <i>oiktirmos</i>
חֶסֶד <i>cheseth</i>	רַחֵם <i>racham</i>

Mary's double entendre: *Racham* is a feminine noun. When the plural form was used, the author had in mind the idea of compassion or mercy. When the singular form of this word was used it always signified the physical womb of a woman. Mary uses the singular form of *eleos*.

Mary speaks of God's unfailing love for Israel demonstrated in this context by the virgin birth of the Messiah's true humanity from the source of her womb.

