



Seven Hebrew Words for Praise



All expressions of praise have faith as their basis. When the Jews heard the words for praise they understood a lot more than we do today because they understood the meaning of it.

YADAH – yaw-daw (*Hands to God*)

The Hebrew word **YADAH** comes from two root words. YAD which means the open hand, direction, power. And AH which has reference to Jehovah. Together they are rendered Hands to God. It carries the meaning of absolute surrender as a child does to a parent – “pick me up, I’m all yours.” **Scriptures: Genesis 29:35, 2 Chronicles 20:21, Psalm 42:9-11; 109:30, Isaiah 12:1**

YADAH (3034)– to throw out hands; to worship with extended hands, **Ps. 7:1, 9:1, 28:7, 33:2, 42:5, 44:8, 63:4, 100:4, 134:2, 141:2**. The opposite is to wail, throw ones hands complaining. Our hands are an extension of our inward nature. Aggressiveness inside – hands hit people. It is an expression of a deep surrender to God and it is an extension of our hearts desiring to exalt Him.

TOWDAH – toe-dah (*Court of Law*)

TOWDAH (8426) – see thanksgiving. In the Old Testament, it translated as “Confession”. The New Testament translates it as “to say the same thing.” The word comes from Yadah and means to extend the hands. To declare openly, freely, unreservedly. Admit as real or true. The lifting of the hands signifies agreement. The ATTITUDE for TOWDAH is: I’m thanking God. I don’t care what it looks like. I’m agreeing with what His word says.

- (1) **Provides Access – Psalm 100:4**
- (2) **Honors God – Psalm 50:23**
- (3) **Confession – Ezra 10:11**

SHABACH – shaw-bakh (*Loud Adoration*)

Shabach is to loudly give adoration to God in the form of testimony.

Psalm 145:3, “One generation shall praise (Shabach) Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.” Verses 6, 7, 10-12

Psalm 32:11, “Be glad in the Lord and rejoice your righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.”

Psalm 17:1, “Oh clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!”

SHABACH (7623) – to address in a loud voice, tone, shout. To command, triumph or glory; to shout proclaiming with a loud voice. **Ps. 63:3, 117:1, 145:4, 147:12**. The phrase "shout unto the Lord" can be understood as the action of Shabach – **Ps. 32:11, 35:27, 47:1, 65:13, 132:9**.



Seven Hebrew Words for Praise



BARAK – *baw-rak (The Act of Kneeling)*

Barak is translated “to kneel or bow as an act of adoration.” **Psalm 95:6**. It implies a continual, conscious acknowledgment of God – an attitude of expectancy, in a worshipful attitude expecting to receive, but is not a begging attitude, but yielded. Praise, salute, thanks. Often translated to bless or blessed – **Judges 5:2, Ps. 16:7, 34:1, 63:4, 66:8, 100:4, 96:2, 103:1-2, 20-22, 134:1-3**.

I Chronicles 29:10-20, “David blessed (barauch) the Lord before all the assembly...” and ended his prayer by saying, “now bless (barauch) the Lord your God. So all the assembly blessed (barauch) the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the Lord and the king.”

James 4:6-7, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God...”

ZAMAR – *zaw-mar (Singing Accompanied by Music)*

When expressing Yadah, Towdah, Shabach or Barauch in song, accompanied by instruments, it is described as ZAMAR.

Psalm 92:1-3, 98:5, 6; 144:1, 9; 147:7

ZAMAR (2167) – to touch the strings; to sing and play with instruments. Translated many times as "sing praises" and implies the singing of praise, in set composition of words and music. This kind of praise is mostly rejoicing. **1 Chronicles 15:16**.

HALAH – *Hala (Praise Unrestricted and Undignified)*

Our word “hallelujah” comes from this word. It means “to celebrate, rave, and boast, to be clamorously foolish.”

Clamorous: “A loud and continuous sound.” Halah is to be clamorously FOOLISH.

The best way to understand this characteristic of Halah is in relationship to spirituality and non-spirituality. For the things of God are foolishness to the world read **I Corinthians 1:25**.

Psalm 22:3 - This is the kind of praise that God inhabits, dwells or lives in.

Psalm 149:3 – Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises with the timbrel and harp.

Psalm 150:1 – Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; Praise him in his mighty expanse.



Seven Hebrew Words for Praise



HALAL (1984) – (root word for hallelu-jah) to shine, boast over God, celebrate foolishly -- an abandonment of self and a boasting in the Lord and being in love with the Lord. Praise to Yahweh, speaking the glorious attributes, workings, mercy, goodness, power, love, etc. to God. **Psalm 104 – 106** are perfect examples of this. Translated praise, praised, praises – **2 Chronicles 20:19, 21; Psalm 22:22-23, 26, 111:1-3**

TEHILLAH – *teh-hil-law'* (*Praise in Song*)

Tehillah is derived from the word halal and means “the singing of halals, to sing; perceived to involve music, especially singing; hymns of the Spirit.”

Psalm 100:4, “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving (Towdah) and into His courts with praise.” (Tehillah)

The entrance into the court or His presence is through the gate, Towdah – confession. But the perceived manifested presence of the Father is in the court – Tehillah.

TEHILLAH (8416) – to sing halal, a hymn, song of spontaneous praise, glorying in God in song. This is the kind of praise God inhabits. There are more than 300 times we are exhorted to sing with some different Hebrew words for "sing", so psalms, hymns etc could be praise and yet not be tehillah. It is songs of the spirit – unprepared – that flow forth spontaneously from our spirits. It implies to total involvement of oneself in praise to God. **Psalm 100:4, 22:3, 9:14, 33:1, 34:1, 65:1, 147:1-2, 149:1-2; Isaiah 61:3.**



Seven Greek Words for Praise



(133)	AINESIS	praising a thank offering
(134)	AINEO	to praise God
(136)	AINOS	praise of God
(1867)	EPAINEO	to applaud, commend, laud, praise
(1868)	EPAINOS	laudation, commendation, praise
(5214)	HUMNEO	to sing, to laud, sing to the praise of (hymn) Acts 16:25