

Hebrew Words for Praise

Hebrew words for the English word "praise" have rich meaning and expression. Exploring their expression can connect us with God in new and deeper ways.

Set aside 15 minutes and choose one of the words for praise. During your time of worship, worship God through that posture.

Alternately, set aside a longer time, such as an hour, and move through the praise postures one at a time.

However you approach these postures, invite God to take you deeper into adoration of Him. When you pick a location for your time, try and choose a place that allows you to freely move your body and be loud with your voice. As much as possible, choose an environment where you have the least possible distraction and limitation on responding to God with your whole heart and body.

Zamar

Zamar means "to pluck the strings of an instrument, to sing, to praise; a musical word which is largely involved with joyful expressions of music with musical instruments.

Towdah

Towdah comes from the same principle root word as yadah, but is used more specifically. Towdah literally means, "an extension of the hand in adoration, avowal, or acceptance." By way of application, it is apparent in the Psalms and elsewhere that it is used for thanking God for "things not yet received" as well as things already at hand.

Yadah

Yadah is a verb with a root meaning, "the extended hand, to throw out the hand, therefore to worship with extended hand." According to the Lexicon, the opposite meaning is "to bemoan, the wringing of the hands."

Tehillah

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

Shabach

Shabach means, "to shout, to address in a loud tone, to command, to triumph."

Barak

Barak means "to kneel down, to bless God as an act of adoration."

Halal

Halal is a primary Hebrew root word for praise. Our word "hallelujah" comes from this base word. It means "to be clear, to shine, to boast, show, to rave, celebrate, to be clamorously foolish."