

Todah תודה

Choose Thanksgiving

In Hebrew, the concept of ‘thanksgiving’ is synonymous with the words for praise, acknowledge and confess.

Thankfulness **acknowledges the cost** of what someone else has done for us, **confesses truth**, and **praises them**. Thankfulness is a deep attitude of the heart, not just an empty formality.

תודה Today is this Hebrew word for ‘thanksgiving’. In Israel, you hear this word constantly. It serves an important purpose to thank bus drivers, bank clerks, or strangers who hold the door open. But, this ‘ordinary’ word can easily lose the power of its Biblical meaning in our frequent and casual modern usage of the word. In contrast to the true Biblical “todah,” so often today, saying thank you is a low-cost, low-profile obligation.

תודה Today comes from a root “yadah” - which is most often translated as ‘give thanks’, ‘praise’, ‘confess’, or ‘acknowledge.’

“Todah” was closely tied to Temple worship -- the ‘sacrifice of praise.’ In this optional ceremony, the worshiper would choose to bring a sacrifice to be placed on the altar, to be cooked for a communal meal, as one of the freewill peace offerings (Lev. 7). At the altar, the worshiper would publicly proclaim the reason for their “todah,” to bring glory to God and encouragement to others. Because God had done something for the worshiper, others would have the benefit of sharing in the meal.

This week as you think about Thanksgiving, go deeper in your thanks. And as you celebrate and share your meal with friends and family, use it to **thank God and bring Him glory**.