

SEVEN HEBREW WORDS FOR PRAISE

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."

- Ps 113:1** Praise the LORD! Yes, give praise, O servants of the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD!
Ps 150:1 Praise the LORD! Praise God in his heavenly dwelling; praise him in his mighty heaven!
Ps 149:3 Praise his name with dancing, accompanied by tambourine and harp.
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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."

- 2 Chr 20:21** Give thanks to the LORD; his faithful love endures forever!
Ps 52:9 I will praise you forever, O God, for what you have done. I will wait for your mercies in the presence of your people.
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TODAH

Todah comes from the same principle root word as *yadah*, but is used more specifically. *Todah* 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.

- Ps 50:14** What I want instead is your true thanks to God; I want you to fulfill your vows to the Most High.
Ps 50:23 But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors me. If you keep to my path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God.
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SHABACH

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

- Ps 63:3** O LORD our God, save us! Gather us back from among the nations, so we can thank your holy name and rejoice and praise you.
Ps 145:4 Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts.
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BARAK

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

- Ps 95:6** O come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
Ps 34:1 I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.
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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."

- Ps 21:13** We praise you, LORD, for all your glorious power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.
1 Chr 16:9 Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his miracles.
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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."

- Ps 22:3** Yet you are holy. The praises of Israel surround your throne.
Ps 33:1 Let the godly sing with joy to the LORD, for it is fitting to praise him.