

Developing Intimacy with God-Yad/Yadah/Yada/Judah

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Learning Hebrew

Knowing God Intimately – Yad, Yadah, Yada, Judah

It's wonderful to go to Church every Sunday and get your praise on, but how many of you continue that praise throughout the rest of the week. How many of you have developed a very intimate relationship with the Lord.

One very important way to know that you are a part of ***Christ's bride*** is by your relationship with Him.

I'm not saying to know His doctrines, etc., I'm saying ***know Him***. In Philippians 3:10, 11 Paul says “ that I may ***know Him*** and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. When you ***know Him***, you realize that He is with you continuously, no matter where you are or what you are doing. I remember hearing a saint say one time that she got angry with someone and she told them “I might be saved, but I will lay it down and beat the crap out of you and pick it (salvation, Christ) back up again”. Of course I paraphrased because I can't remember the exact words but that was the jest of it. I laughed at the time, but when I think back, I'm like “wow!”.

Some very important ways of developing your relationship with God is: having a reverential fear of Him, talking to Him daily just like you talk to your best friends, and praising and worshiping Him. Our God loves for us to praise and worship Him. Today, we are going to look at a few Hebrew words that connects with one of the forms of praise; those words are “yad”, “yadah”, “yada”, and “Judah”.

Ok, here we go:

Yad is a Hebrew word that means “hand”, power, control, strength, possession, and axle. “Yad” denotes the physical hand. To stretch out your hands symbolizes a yearning for God [Psalms 143:6]. The Laying on of hands symbolizes transfer (such as the transfer of sins from man to animal [Exodus 29:10] or the transferring of the anointing [Acts 8:18]. An uplifted hand symbolizes prayer, praise and worship [Psalms 28:2, Psalms 134:2].



“Yadah” (the root word for “Judah”) means to praise. The word “praise” is “a confession or declaration of who God is and what he does”. The root of this word “yadah” means the extended hand. It involves confession, praise, thanksgiving and worship by the raising of the hands. It is exalting Him and giving Him the glory that He truly deserves. This should not just be done in Church but even in your alone time with God. Therefore, “yadah” means to praise God, give Him thanks, and sing unto Him by the raising of the hands. “Yadah” is found over 120 times in the Hebrew bible and over 70 times in the Psalms.

“Yada” means to perceive, to know intimately, to understand, to experience. Genesis 4:1 states that Adam knew Eve. Adam yada Eve. It meant that Adam knew Eve in the most intimate of ways. He knew her sexually. Genesis 18:19 speaks of God's knowledge (yada) of man. In talking about Abraham, God said, “For I have known (chosen) him”, the emphasis is on the fact that God knew Abraham personally and intimately. Yada also speaks of man knowing (yada) God. In Exodus 33:13 Moses asked the Lord to teach him His ways so that he may know (yada) Him. To know God is to have an experiential knowledge of Him. Although the New Testament is written in Greek, when Paul said in Philippians 3:10, “I desire to know Him and the power of His resurrection” it is the same definition signifying an intimate relationship.

“Judah” or “Yehudah” In Genesis 29:35, when Leah gave birth to Judah she said 'Now I will praise the Lord.' Therefore she called his name Judah (praise). It is in this verse that the word “yadah” appears for the first time which is the root word for “Judah”. *In Hebrew the letter “J” has a “Y” sound as in yellow. So in Hebrew “Judah” is technically spelled as “Yehudah”. The word “jew” comes from Judah. Although it is a name commonly attributed to those who are Hebrew, Paul tells us in Romans 2:28, 29 that a Jew is not one who is a Jew outwardly but rather a true Jew is one who is a Jew inwardly.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;

Rom 2:29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

This in no way says that God has forgotten Israel, for she is His wife. We who are Gentile by birth have been grafted into the tree. ok (Please let me know if you don't understand this part)? If you keep an eye on world events you will notice that a lot of attention is given to Israel these days. That's because God is beginning to turn His attention back to her and that is what the battle of Armageddon will be about. But again remember that Israelites were called “Hebrews”. A “Jew” is one who shows forth the praises God, so if you are a child of God who praises Him you are a “Jew”. You are a member of God's Household and is entitled to all the covenants, promises and blessings given to Israel. Here is an extra nugget for you. After Joshua died the children of Israel consulted God as to who would go up first to battle against the Canaanites. “And the Lord said, "Judah(Praise) shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand." The tribe of **praise** was the first to go forth in battle. Judah is also the tribe in which God said in Genesis 49:10, “ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.”

A scepter is a symbol of sovereignty, power and authority. That Scepter was none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He came forth out of the tribe of Judah, He came forth out of praise!

Therefore with lifted up hands (yad) if we will pray and praise (yadah) our God, we will come to know (yada) Him intimately, and when the enemy attacks if we will continue to praise, (yadah) God will give us the victory by turning the situation or circumstance around, because (yad) also means axle (I Kings 7:32, 33), and an axle turns things around.

**True worship always requires right behavior, humility of spirit and confession of known sin.*