

Expressing Gratitude



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In Parashat Tzav we read about the *Korban Todah* (thanksgiving offering). When someone has survived a life-threatening crisis, they bring a *Korban Todah* to express their gratitude to God – and their recognition that it is God who saved them.

The *Korban Todah* is a type of peace offering (*Korban Shelamim*), but with two key differences.

1. The *Todah* is eaten over the course of a day and a night, while a *Shelamim* is eaten over two days and the night in-between.

2. The *Todah* is accompanied by 40 loaves of bread.

Seemingly, these two points contradict each other. I would imagine that since the *Todah* involves more food, it should have more time to be eaten. How was it possible to eat 40 loaves of bread in one day?!

Furthermore, in Hallel we say that the *Korban Todah* should be offered “*negda na lechol amo*” – in the presence of all the people. Traditionally, Judaism places lots of emphasis on *Tzniut*, modesty. It’s therefore somewhat surprising to be told to go out and do something in such a public way. Why is this?

Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin (the Netziv, 1816-1893) explains in his commentary to Vayikra 7:13, that the essence of bringing a *Korban Todah* was to publicise God’s kindness that He showed by saving someone from a life-threatening situation. And

that’s exactly why there was a lot of food and not a lot of time to eat it. It’s practically impossible to eat 40 loaves of bread in one day. Instead, people would have to invite their friends and family to join with them. Through this shared experience, the person bringing the *Todah* would be able to share their experience of a potentially life-threatening situation, and be able to publicly express thanks to God for saving them. This is exactly why it should also be offered “in the presence of all the people”. The idea is that people take inspiration from other people’s expressions of gratitude and in turn they realise that they have so much for which to be grateful to God.

We should all try and thank God for something which we may take for granted. And more than that, we should try and do it in a way which can inspire those around us to do the same.

Parasha Wordsearch

Words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

BREAD
FORTY
GRATITUDE
HALLEL
KORBAN
MIRACLE
NETZIV
PUBLIC
SACRIFICE
THANKS
TODAH

S	Q	X	W	D	E	C	C	K	I	O
V	K	J	C	N	D	C	S	T	H	D
I	C	N	W	J	U	C	A	S	A	D
Z	W	F	A	E	T	I	C	E	L	N
T	O	D	A	H	I	L	R	L	L	X
E	F	X	O	F	T	B	I	D	E	R
N	M	O	O	K	A	U	F	F	L	E
X	U	R	I	B	R	P	I	O	M	X
Q	T	K	G	A	G	Q	C	E	T	O
Y	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	M	E	J
P	K	L	C	N	A	B	R	O	K	N