# Todah (toe-dah)
# (Greek—eucharisteo)

1. There are five main types of sacrifices, or offerings, in the Old Testament.
    1. The burnt offering (Leviticus 1; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24).
    2. The grain offering (Leviticus 2; 61423).
    3. The peace offering (Leviticus 3; 7:11-34).
    4. The sin offering (Leviticus 4; 5:1-13; 6:24-30; 8:14-17; 16:3-22).
    5. The trespass offering (Leviticus 5:14-19; 6:1-7; 7:1-6).

Each of these sacrifices involved certain elements, either animal or fruit of the field, and had a specific purpose. Most were split into two or three portions—God's portion, the portion for the Levites or priests, and, if there was a third, a portion kept by the person offering the sacrifice. The categories of the sacrifices are either voluntary or mandatory offerings.

Leviticus 7:11-15 'Now this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which shall be presented to the LORD. If he offers it by way of thanksgiving, then along with the sacrifice of thanksgiving he shall offer unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil, and cakes of well stirred fine flour mixed with oil. 13 'With the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving, he shall present his offering with cakes of leavened bread. 14 'Of this he shall present one of every offering as a contribution to the LORD; it shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offerings. 15 'Now as for the flesh of the sacrifice of his thanksgiving peace offerings, it shall be eaten on the day of his offering; he shall not leave any of it over until morning."

1. Todah (toe dah)—Hebrew word which means "thanks or thank you; thank you very much; praise given to God, praise and confession."It is used 32 times in OT (mostly in Psalms).

A. Todah sacrifice—(thanksgiving, praise or confession) This was a voluntary peace offering made to God. It expressed deep gratitude for deliverance from a major crisis or peril. The term appears often in the Psalms as a call to worship.

B. At its heart, it was a public declaration that God had shown mercy, rescued His people, and deserved their grateful praise.

C. It was an important part of Old Testament worship.

D. Unlike the burnt offering, which was entirely burned up, the Sacrifice of Thanksgiving was a shared offering: part was given to God, part to the priest, and part was eaten by the worshiper with his community. Thus, the Old Testament thanksgiving sacrifice was a communal celebration of God's deliverance.

1. The unleavened cakes, wafers, and bread find their fulfillment in Christ.

2. Greek-speaking Jews often translated the Hebrew term "todah" as "eucharisteō", which helps explain why Jesus' actions at the Last Supper resonated so powerfully with Jewish believers.

2. Todah in The Lord's Supper.
A. In the supper, Jesus gave thanks.

Luke 22:17-19 "And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, Take this and share it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes. 19 And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, This is My body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1. He "gave thanks" (eucharisteō in Greek). The early church immediately understood this meal as a shared celebration of thanksgiving for Christ's saving work. In this way, the "Todah" reaches its fullest meaning in the church's worship of the risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

2. In the end, the Sacrifice of Thanksgiving pointed to Jesus. His perfect "once for all" sacrifice fulfills the purpose of all the Old Testament offerings (Hebrews 10:10; Hebrews 7:27; 9:12-14).

3. In the New Covenant, Jesus is the center of all worship. God no longer requires sacrifices and offerings. Because Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial system, thanksgiving is now part of our daily spiritual worship instead of a ritual offering.

4. The author of Hebrews links the "Todah" to Christian worship:

Hebrews 13:15-16 "Through Him then, let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips praising His name. 16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

3. The apostle Paul also teaches that thanksgiving is central to the Christian life.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 3:17 "Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

For believers today, the sacrifice of thanksgiving is not just one religious act of worship. It is a way of life (Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:6).