

A Word Study by Pastor Melissa Scott, Ph.D.
The Word “Confess” in the Old and New Testaments

Leviticus 5:5 (KJV) “...that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that....”

In the Masoretic Text (Hebrew): **הִתְוַדָּה** is the Hithpael perfect 3ms, from **וָדָה**

(LXX) English “then shall he declare his sin....”

(LXX) Greek καὶ ἐξαγορεύσει τὴν ἁμαρτίαν

See also Leviticus 16:21, 26:40, and Numbers 5:7, Greek Septuagint (LXX) 3 Kings 8:31, 2 Esdras 10:1 (KJV Ezra 10:1), Nehemiah 1:6, 9:2, 9:3, Job 31:34, Psalm 32:5*, Baruch 1:14 (LXX), Daniel 9:20 (Theodotion’s Greek translation), and Proverbs 28:13 (Symmachus only).

ἐξ – denoting origin, from, out (of place or time), etc. Often used in compounds with sense of completion.

ἐξ + ἀγόρευμα τό = saying

ἀγόρευσις speech, pronouncement

ἀγορευτός utterable, explicable

* Psalm 32:5 KJV: (Psalm 31:5 in LXX and Vulgate)

I acknowledged my sin (unto thee)....

Hebrew/MT **יָדַע** to know, to acknowledge

Greek LXX ἐγνώρισα

Vulgate *cognitum*

I will confess my transgressions (unto the LORD)

Hebrew/MT **יָדַע** I will confess

Greek LXX ἐξαγορεύσω

Vulgate *confitebor*

This Greek word for “confess” in the LXX translates the following Hebrew words:

ὁμολογεῖν (1) **יָדַע** (Hiphil) **praise, thanks** (2) **נָדַר** **promise, vow**

(3) **שָׁבַע** (Niphal) **oath, swear** (4) **יָדַע** **to know**

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- LXX 1 Esdras 4:60 “And to thee I give thanks, O Lord”– ὁμολογῶ (1)
- LXX Job 40:9 (The Lord is speaking to Job) “Then I will confess”– ὁμολογήσω (1)
- LXX Wisdom 18:13 “They acknowledged this people to be the sons of God”– ὁμολόγησαν (4)
- LXX Jeremiah 51:25 (Not listed in the same order as KJV, which is Jeremiah 44:25)
“Thus has the Lord God of Israel said; Ye women have spoken with your mouth, and ye fulfilled it with your hands, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour drink-offerings to her: full well did ye keep to your vows, and ye have indeed performed them.”– ὁμολογίας, ὁμολογήσαμεν, and ὁμολογίας (2) (Not an exhaustive list)

ὁμολογία

- LXX Deut. 12:6 offerings of thanksgiving– ὁμολογίας
- KJV your freewill offerings (Hebrew/MT) כִּבְרָה (5) **freely, free will, willingly, voluntarily.**
- Deut. 12:17 same
- Amos 4:5 LXX and KJV read differently.
Hebrew/MT agrees more with KJV.
- LXX Ezek. 46:12 voluntary burnt offering, etc.
a thanksgiving, a whole burnt offering (1) ὁμολογίαν

ὁμολόγως

- Hosea 14:5 I will restore their dwellings, I will love them truly
(5) הִבְרַחֵם ὁμολόγως (Not an exhaustive list)

ἐξομολογεῖν a) הִבְרַחֵם hiphil b) hithpaal c) translates another Hebrew verb, לְהַלְלֵם to praise

- See LXX Gen. 29:35^a
2 Kings 22:50^a
3 Kings 8:33, 35^a

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1 Chron. 16:4, 8, 34^a, 23:30^c, 29:13^a

2 Chron. 5:13^c (x2), 6:24^a, 7:6^a, 20:21^a, 30:22^b

Psalms 6:5^a

7:17^a

9:1^a

17 (18):49^a

21 (22):25⁻

27 (28):7^a

29 (30):4, 9, 12^a

32 (33):2^a

34 (35):18^a

41 (42):5, 11^a

42 (43):4, 5^a

43 (44):8^a

44 (45):17^a

48 (49):18^a

51 (52):9^a

53 (54):6^a

56 (57):9^a

66 (67):3, 5^a

70 (71):22^a

73 (74):19^a

74 (75):1^a

75 (76):10^a

85 (86):12^a

87 (88):10^a

88 (89):5^a

91 (92):1^a

96 (97):12^a

98 (99):3^a

99 (100):4^a

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Psalm 104 (105):1^a
105 (106):47^a
106 (107):1, 8, 15, 21, 31^a
107 (108):3^a
108 (109):30^a
110 (111):1^a
117 (118):1, 19, 21, 28 (x2), 29^a
118 (119):7, 62^a
121 (122):4^a
135 (136):1, 2, 3, 26^a
137 (138):1, 2, 4^a
138 (139):14^a
139 (140):13^a
141 (142):7^a
144 (145):10^a

LXX Sir Isa. 45:24 [שָׁבַע] (niphil) oath, swear]

Jer. 40 (33):11^a

LXX multiple in Daniel, but varies between Aquila, Theodotion, Symmachus, etc.

ἐξομολόγησις

- 1) הוֹדָה splendor, grandeur, majesty
- 2) הִדָּה (a) hiphil
(b) תְּוָדָה extension of the hand, adoration, thanksgiving
- 3) תְּהִלָּה laudation, hymn and praise, but can also mean braggadocio, fatuity, folly
- 4) תְּרוּעָה acclamation of joy or a battle cry, shout, etc.

LXX Joshua 7:19 2b
1 Chron. 25:3 2a
2 Chron. 20:22 3
Neh. 12:27 2b
Tobit 14:1

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Judith 16:1	
Job 8:21	4
Psalms 41 (42):4	2b
Psalms 94 (95):2	2b
Psalms 95 (96):6	1
Psalms 99 (100) title	2b
Psalms 99 (100):4	2b
Psalms 103 (104):1	1
Psalms 110 (111):3	1
Psalms 146 (147):7	2b
Psalms 148:13	1
LXX Sir	-----
Isa. 51:3	2b
2 Macc.	
3 Macc.	

(Not exhaustive, and there are variants between Symmachus, Theodotion, and Aquila.)

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From Brown-Driver-Briggs (BDB)

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Strong’s #3034

הִתְּנָה verb - throw, cast

Hiphil (which is the causative form) *give thanks, confess* (orig. *acknowledge?*)

Qal BDB records only one time as an Imperative, in Jer. 50:14 *shoot* (arrows) *at*

Piel Imperfect - Lam. 3:53 *and they cast* (stones) *on me*; & Infinitive - Zec. 2:4 *to cast down* (the horns of the nations).

Hiphil

1. *give thanks, laud, praise*

2. *confess* the name of God (3 examples); *confessing and forsaking* (transgressions)
(1 example)

Hithpael intensive indirect or direct reflexive

Strong’s #8426

תְּהִלָּה noun fem. - thanksgiving

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Strong’s #5068

נָדַב verb - incite, impel, volunteer for war or for service, offer freewill offerings.

Strong’s #5071

נְדָבָה noun fem. - voluntariness, freewill offerings; also, God’s love; and as an adjective, generous, willing, noble.

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Strong’s #5087

נָדָה verb - vow, promised gift

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Strong’s #7650

שָׁבַע verb - swear, oath, adjure; also (noun) oath, curse, oath of covenant or promise