

Workshop Title: **What is in your hand?**

Text: Book of Exodus (NKJV)

Subject: Matteh; rod, staff, scepter, tribe

Our weapon of choice for this workshop is the Matteh, the rod of God. It is a symbol of authority as well as identity. This weapon is not for the faint of heart, this is a WORSHIP WARRIORS weapon declaring defeat of the enemy. You and I will ROAR with our Matteh this weekend, amen?

In the ministry of Worship and the Arts, we use symbolic tools or weapons if you will, to convey a spiritual principle or message. They enhance the visual experience for all involved and bring pictures to the mind as movement takes place.

Prophetically we can say that we ROAR with movement. One of the meanings of ROAR is to prophesy, to speak the oracles of God.

Amos 3: 7-8 Surely the LORD GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The LORD GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

- ROAR: (Strong's H7580 - sha'ag) of lion, conqueror, Jehovah, cry of distress. Fierce cries from a soldier, to roar mightily, thunder.

We have a stance with the matteh called the ROAR stance. We visually see this as the fierce cry of the warrior, a conqueror's position in the Spirit. And what comes to mind as a picture? Yes, a lion...The Lion of the Tribe of Judah! HALLELUJAH!

I've been around the Messianic community for many years, and have experienced the matteh in warfare & worship. It is a powerful thing when the Army of the LORD (*Song of Songs 6:1*) rises up with mattehs in hand and begins striking the ground. We will do that very thing a little bit later in this workshop.



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What is in your hand?

So the LORD said to him (Moses), "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod (matteh)." Exodus 4:2

Exodus 4: 2 is the first time the word "matteh" is mentioned in the scriptures. Bible students refer to this as "*The Law of First Mention*," which simply means the very first time a particular word is used in scripture and is usually found in the first 5 books of the Bible (*sometimes referred to as the books of Moses*.)

What does the word **rod** mean in this scripture?

- Strong's H4294 - Matteh
 - staff, branch, tribe
 - company (tribe) led by a chief with a staff

מַטֵּה matteh, mat-teh'; or (feminine) מַטֵּה matteh; from H5186; a branch (as extending); figuratively, a tribe; also a rod, whether for chastising (figuratively, correction), ruling (a scepter), throwing (a lance), or walking (a staff; figuratively, a support of life, e.g. bread):—rod, staff, tribe.

The matteh is a point of contact, a visual reminder, a symbol and an unspoken message that many times roars louder than a word of declaration. Biblical symbols enhance the prophetic message being brought forth. I just love all the imagery and symbols used in scripture they just make the scriptures come alive into word pictures! The Hebrew language is pictorial and the symbols used in scripture take the meaning to the next level.

The matteh or rod of God is referenced over 125 times in the Bible. If, this word Rod/Matteh is mentioned so often in the Word of God, shouldn't we take notice? God is conveying a message to His overcomers, a message of authority and power that is granted to those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.



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Matteh Workshop

Joining With Heaven's Worship Conference

*"Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the **rod (matteh)** which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand." Exodus 7:15*

We find the same word for "matteh/rod" used in Exodus 4 and throughout the entire book of Exodus. Again God is saying take that matteh into your hand! Verse 20 of Exodus 7 says, the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron to "arise" and lift up the **matteh** high.

- Our Team has a movement we use with the matteh called the power stance (Exodus 7:20)
 - The LORD is lifted high and His commands shall go forth
 - This is the stance of authority from on high
 - He said it; we believe it and that settles it! Amen?

If you continue to read the book of Exodus you will see the hand of God upon Moses to use his **matteh** the rod of authority to bring judgment upon the enemy.



Besides the **matteh** a worshiper's collection weaponry may include: flags (banners), tabrets, warrior rods, tambourines, billows, garments, shofars as well as many other items to numerous to list. We definitely know that color is a powerful weapon, amen?

When you take a worship instrument into your hand it symbolizes something. It is not just an object to flit around into the atmosphere. It has purpose! It becomes a prophetic declaration through your obedience to the Holy Spirit's leadings.

Hebrew Warrior Declarations

*These are 3 Hebrew words we use in this ministry to speak out as we minister with the **matteh***

- Paga! Attack, strike the mark
- Rua! Raise your battle cry
- Rak Chazak! Strong & courageous



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As we speak these declarations with our **matteh's** in hand, God ignites us from within to "strike" the enemy. The **matteh** is a point of contact, a reminder of what God is doing in and through the believer at that moment in the Spirit.

So, what is in your hand?

- A weapon – Exodus 17:9, Micah 5:1
- Protection – Psalm 23:4
- Authority – Lamentations 3:1
- Covering – Ezekiel 20:37-38
- Symbol of the priesthood – Revelation 2:26-28
- Yeshua the King – Revelation 12:5
- Healing
- Intercession
- Expression
- Sound/rhythm

A word of caution: THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO POWER IN ANY OF THE WORSHIP TOOLS THAT WE USE. They are just an extension of what God is doing in you and through you. They are symbolic and different tools are used for different purposes in this earthly realm.

Be sensitive to the house of worship that you are in. Not everyone is comfortable with an army of worshipers striking the ground with these rods. A matteh can be a percussion instrument also which can be a very touchy subject in many environments. Beloved use your gift of discernment, that's what it's for.

THE MATTEH IS A SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY

In scripture **matteh** has several different meanings and is over 125 times in the Bible. Out of these instances, 42 of them point to divine governmental authority called "The rod of God."

Through intercession we are to decree and declare victory over our lives, our families, or regions and ultimately the nations. We stand up and say enough is enough! We are taking back what the enemy has stolen. We decree and declare and claim the land for Jesus Christ! We are the Bride of Christ and things are being shaken in our midst. Can you feel the rumbling in the ground (land)? That Hebrew word "paga" represents that shaking. Walls are coming down and chains are being broken. As you well know the enemy does not like us taking



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ground and will rear his ugly head up and come against us BUT...No weapon formed against us shall prosper! Amen?

The Beloved speaks to the Bride

O my love; you are as beautiful as Tirzah, Lovely as Jerusalem, Awesome as an army with banners! Song of Songs 6:10

Worshipping warriors we are part of that awesome army and our identity comes from the tribe of Judah. Do you remember what Judah means? JUDAH means praise, as the body of Christ we are from the tribe of praise (Judah.) Jesus Christ is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. He is our Commander and Chief. He is El Gihbor which means mighty God or Warrior God.

JUDAH FIRST

The tribe of Judah is the sceptered ones they are of royal birth, that's you & I. Judah's tribe is those warriors on the frontlines of battle. The mighty men and women of God moving like a fierce army advancing the kingdom. The tribe of Judah is commissioned to lead others into throne room worship.



MINISTRY TEAM

My long time ministry partner is Lynn Altman. The Team lovingly calls her "Sarge." She has been my right-hand in this ministry going on 9 years is it? She is very prophetic and is the one that choreographs all our worship arts presentations. She even wrote the play that we do for our Esther Experiences and so much more! Lynn is a gem and we could not do this without her.

WORKSHOP SONG: Strike the Ground by Seth Yates. This song speaks of our position in the Kingdom for such a time as this. We lift Jesus (Yeshua) higher as we raise our **mattehs** to heaven.

1. Demonstration of some of our warrior stances with the mattehs given by the Holy Spirit.
2. Teach movements to the song.

