

Matteh (Staff) Workshop

Some special friends of mine were at this workshop from the Brandon, Florida ministers Tom & Gail Bush of Wings of Praise. They do a tremendous amount of ministry in the Tampa Bay area. Tom is an experienced Shofar man and I'd like him to sound the shofar for us. Would everyone please stand for the sounding of the shofar?

Why do we stand? In reverence to God, we look to Him because He will fight for us.

Ezekiel 33:1-7 the sound of the Shofar stirs the hearts of the people and causes them to return to God.

Nehemiah 4:20 whatever place that you hear the voice of the shofar, join us there; our God shall fight for us.

Job 39:25 at the blast of the shofar; it (war horse) snorts, 'Aha!' It catches the scent of battle from afar, the shout of commanders and the battle cry.

I have been around the Messianic community for many years and have seen and experienced the shofar and the matteh in warfare & worship. It is a powerful thing when the shofar sounds and the army of the LORD rises up, with mattehs in hand and begins hitting the ground. It's an awesome thing!

It has been quite a week, hasn't it? I took my husband Gary to the airport this morning. He is on his way to the Dominican Republic for a week long mission's trip. The team will reach out to the sportsmen in the community through baseball. What a concept.

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.

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A worshiper's weaponry may include: flags or banners, tabrets, mattehs, warrior rods, tambourines, billows, garments, shofars as well as many other items too numerous to list. We could even say that color is a powerful weapon.

Our weapon of choice for this workshop is the Matteh. 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 today amen?

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

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

The matteh is a point of contact, a visual reminder, a symbol and an unspoken message that sometimes roars louder than words of declaration.

During our break, you will have the opportunity to choose your weapon for the activations segment. They will be on loan to you to use and you are welcome to purchase them for \$19. The carved eagle on each Matteh is a symbol of having prophetic vision, insight into the spirit realm. It has a removable rubber tip for hitting the ground during warfare.

The team's prayer for you today is that the Holy Spirit will move through you without hindrance and bring powerful expression to your warfare like never before. It is a new time Beloved. It's time to move to the next level in your; *paga* meaning intercession. A time to move to the next level in: praise and prophetic declarations. Here are a few more definitions of the word paga: attack, intercede, to strike, to meet with violence. When I hear that word violence I think of a lion. What comes to your mind?

Wisdom is essential when using our Mattehs. Threatening and cursing the enemy with your matteh is not wisdom, it is exactly what he wants you to do. Take your mind off the LORD and focus on him! Do not give him glory! I didn't say that you should not know the enemy's tactics. You definitely need to know them. Realize that you don't need to shout at your enemies down. Why? Because they can hear you before you even make a noise by your actions. Actions truly can speak louder than words.

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The Word of God says to shout unto God with a voice of triumph. Shout declarations of victory, justice and praise to your God.

Psalm 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

Warriors arise and make some noise! Hallelujah! Let's give God some praise!

When using the matteh in warfare and bringing a shout into the atmosphere, there is the potential to wreak havoc on the enemy's camp. In order to effectively do that we must be in right standing with the LORD at all times when entering times of warfare. Proclaim God's word into the atmosphere, He will send your enemy cowering. A great scripture verse to speak out to send an enemy running is found in Matthew chapter 4.

Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Matthew 4:10

A word of caution: THERE IS ABSOLUTLEY 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 pounding 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.

MATTEH

Matteh is the Hebrew word for rod. In the modern day translations the words stave, staff and scepter are used most often to describe this biblical rod. I found this interesting in the law of first mention; it was about the victory of the Amalekites in Exodus 17 beginning in verse 8. Moses lifted up his rod and as long as it was lifted they were winning the battle. When his arms would get tired, Aaron and Hur would come alongside him and lifted his arms. It goes on to say that the battle was won and so Moses built an altar and called it The-LORD-Is-My-Banner. This scripture in Exodus 17:15 is used many times when speaking about flags. This is the original standard, a rod without cloth on top.

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Numbers 1: 52 says; the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies;

Each tribe had created their own standard by taking a rod and carving their tribal name into the matteh. The tribes would use fabric of various colors and tie them to their rods. *(Show my matteh with the fire silk)* These were the very first flags in the Bible and established identity. The fabric on the end of the matteh had a purpose in battle as well. When the wind would blow the archers could discern accurately where to shoot their arrows by the way the wind was blowing.

Today we decorate our mattehs in various ways we carve symbols into them, paint them, wrap cloth around them etc. It becomes a message of authority and identity to us as we use them during praise and worship. In Genesis 38 it speaks about Judah's staff in the story about Tamar. The story shows that Judah's matteh had great value to him. In verses 26 & 27 it says when he (Judah) saw the staff/matteh he knew it was his. Each matteh is our own personal staff, and we must use it as such.

THE MATTEH IS A SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY

In scripture matteh has several different meanings and is used 78 times in the Bible. Out of the 78 instances, 42 of them point to the divine governmental rod of authority also called "The rod of God."

The Matteh can be used for worship and for warfare. The LORD is doing something in our midst and is using us as instruments of authority. 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 and claiming the land for Jesus Christ. Thea has a powerful testimony that we will share later about that very thing...taking back the land.

We are the Bride of Christ and things are being shaken in our midst. That 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 ground and will rear his ugly head up and come against us BUT...No weapon formed against us shall prosper! Amen? Let me read this entire verse to you, often times we just quote the first part of the first sentence in this verse.

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No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD. Isaiah 54:17

We have a heritage and His word confirms it to us this day, Hallelujah!

MEANINGS for MATTEH

- STAFF: A symbol of strength, guidance. Heb. 11:21; Ps. 23:4; Isa. 9:4; Ex. 12:1
- AARONS ROD: a symbol of fruitfulness, the priesthood, Num. 17. Christ's eternal priesthood, Heb. 7
- ROD: shepherding, leading, guiding, protection, measuring, discipline, tribe, walking stick
- MIRACLE ROD: Staff of Moses, Ex. 4:17, 20; 17:6
- ROD OF GOD: Staff (rod) of Elohim, Ex. 17:9
- STAVES: the rods that carried the Ark of the Covenant, Ex. 25:1-4, 1Chron. 15:15
- SCEPTER: kingship, rule, law and authority. Judah = the sceptered one, Gen. 49:10, Rev. 5:5

Song of Songs 6:1 & 10 speaks about the Bride as awesome as an army of banners.

The Beloved speaks to the Bride

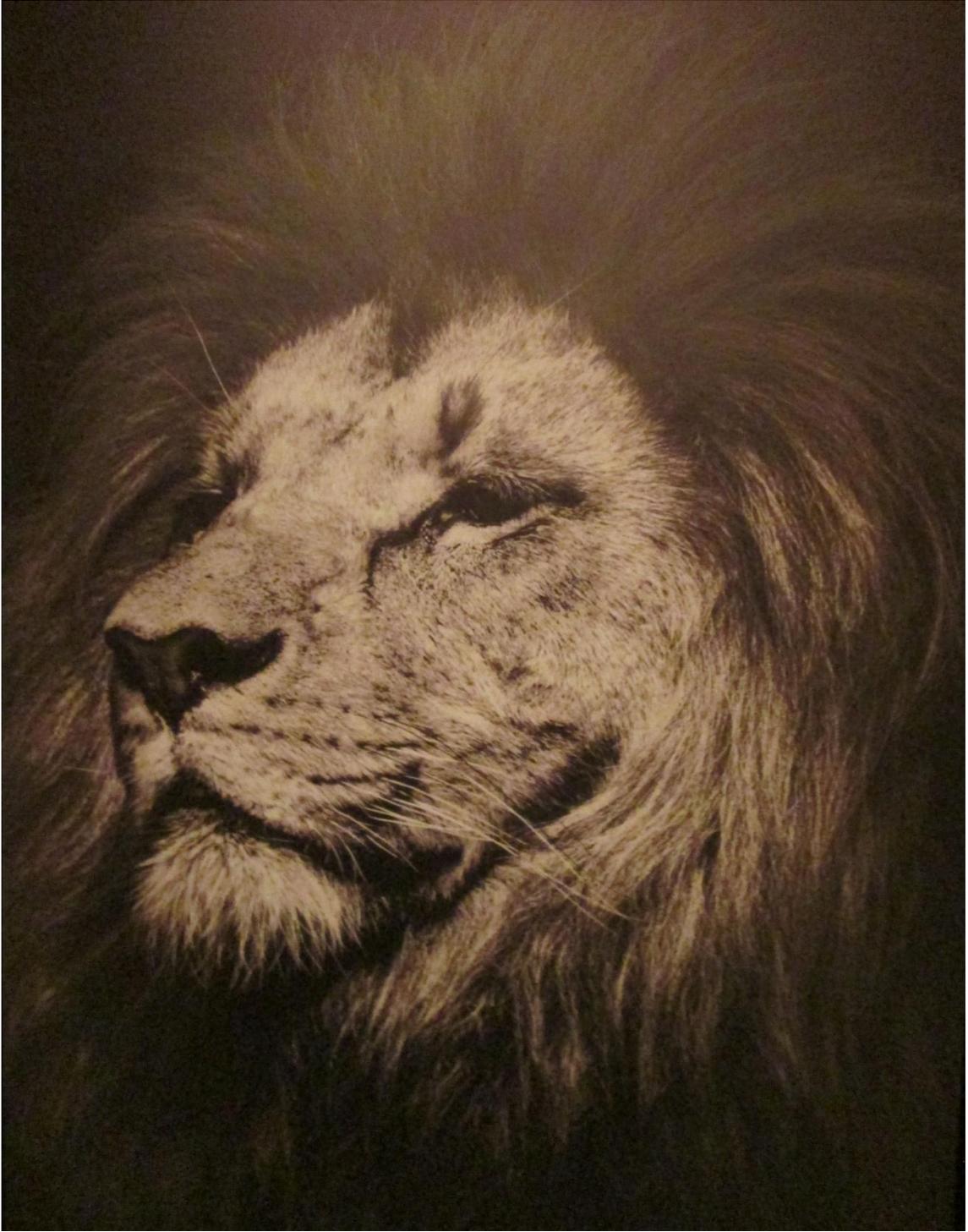
O my love; you *are as* beautiful as Tirzah,
Lovely as Jerusalem,
Awesome as *an army* with banners!

Worshipping warriors are part of that awesome army. They are from the tribe of Judah because Jesus Christ is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. He is the commander and chief – El Gihbor which means mighty God or Warrior God.

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 & women of God moving like a fierce army advancing the kingdom. The tribe of Judah leads others into throne room worship.

I don't want to go into a lot about lions but I brought my Lion picture as a visual to end this teaching with. I would like you to take a minute or so and study this image, let the Holy Spirit speak. Tribe of Judah... what do you see?

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Maybe you could grab a sheet of paper and describe what they see?

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Here are 7 things I see: (7 = completion)

1. Contentment
2. Reigning in godly authority
3. Confidence
4. Completion
5. No contenders
6. SHALOM
7. Full Identity

Lora 11/9/19

RESOURCES:

- Dictionary of Biblical Imagery
- Heavenly Impact by Jeanette Strauss
- Interpreting the Symbols and Types by Kevin Conner
- Tribes of Israel by Gwen Shaw

Author: Lora Rozkowski is a licensed minister, teacher & business owner



WORSHIP WARRIORS® worshipwarriors.net
For more information send an email to: rozkowski@gmail.com
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