

Sounding the Shofar

The Bible teaches that the shofar is the trumpet of God. The blowing of the shofar is still meant to serve important biblical purposes including; the sound for war, the announcing of the coronation of the King and announcing the fall season of Elul, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot.

In Leviticus 23 God instructs Israel to blow the trumpet on the holiday of Rosh Hashanah, which is also called the Feast of Trumpets. Ancient tradition teaches we sound the shofar for a full forty day period beginning the 1st of the Hebrew month of Elul through the festivals of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This season is known as the season of “teshuvah” which means to return.

The Lord designates this as a “due season” of judgment and reward. The daily blowing of the shofar represents God’s alarm clock to wake us up from any spiritual sleep or slumber. In His great love and mercy He sounds an alarm so we are not caught unaware and miss the abundant blessing about to happen. One of the traditional sounds is 9 quick blasts in short succession (*Teruah*) -- which resembles an alarm.

The prophet Joel describes this very season Joel chapter 2; *Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand:*

This is also an appointed time for sowing and reaping. It’s the season of the final of our three First Fruit offerings on Sukkot. Joel 2:23-24 directly connects this “due season” with both the early and latter rain. So, if we’ll arise with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication, and respond with our first fruits offering we can expect an abundant outpouring of blessing in our lives.

The shofar is not only the sound of our reward, it is also considered a spiritual weapon of warfare. As we pray and sound the shofar in our homes and over our families it sends a clear signal that we are pulling down every stronghold of the enemy. 2 Corinthians 10:4 says; *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...*

Numbers 10:9-10 assures our victory; *“When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies. 10 Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God.”*

The familiar long, straight shofar blast (*Tekiah*) is the sound of the King’s coronation. As we receive this revelation and participate in this season, we are symbolically crowning God as our King. I Thessalonians 4:17 tells us the Lord Himself shall return sounding the shofar. We encourage you to send for your own shofar so that you can blow the trumpet and sound the alarm over your family and your future. It’s the sound of your reward!

The blowing of the shofar during the High Holidays consists of four major sounds:

- 1. Tekiah** (pronounced t-KEE-uh), tekiah is a straight, unbroken blast lasting three seconds. The *tekiah* shofar blast -- is the sound of the King's coronation. The word *tekiah* means to sound a horn, but it also means to drive a stake firmly into the ground. In other words, it signals we are to let the Spirit of God and the Word of God penetrate deep within our spirit and soul. The sound draws us back to the revelation that there is but One True God who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Jesus may well return on the Feast of Trumpets, as the blowing of the shofar that signals the coronation of the King, is blown to proclaim His return. I Thess. 4:17
- 2. Shevarim** (pronounced sh-VAW-reem), is a tekiah broken into three one-second segments. The sound of the shevarim means "broken ones" or "breakings." This hints to the breakthrough God has for us especially during the appointed fall season. It's a reminder of 'teshuvah,' when we return to God and fulfill the potential we have in Him. It's a time to examine ourselves in how we are treating our relationship with God and with others. The Lord wants to help us break free from negativity, selfishness and any hardness of ego and pride. When the shofar is sounded as a weapon of our warfare it will begin to scatter these and other enemies and begin to release a powerful spiritual breakthrough in our lives. This is always accompanied by a return to tzedakah-when we reach out to others with acts of kindness, benevolence and blessing.
- 3. Teruah** (pronounced t-ROO-uh), teruah is a tekiah blast divided into nine rapid-fire notes. The *teruah* sound resembles an alarm clock and is intended to awaken us from any spiritual sleep and slumber. The shofar is meant to bring us into a place of spiritual clarity and divine focus. During the appointed time of the Fall Holidays which includes the Hebrew month of Elul, Rosh Hashanah, the Feast of Trumpets and Yom Kippur-the Day of Atonement we need to wake up and be honest and objective about our walk of faith and how much we've progressed throughout the past year. During these forty days the Holy Spirit will help us renew our spiritual strength and the spirit of our mind. It's considered advanced preparation for the outpouring of reward and blessing that follows on Sukkot-the Feast of Tabernacles.
- 4. Tekiah Gedolah** (pronounced geh-DOH-luh), tekiah gedolah is a triple tekiah, three consecutive blasts of three seconds each, for a total of nine seconds and continues for as long as you can. It is usually the last shofar call. This long blast usually announces the end of the holy day of Yom Kippur.

