

Can We Hear The Sound Of The Trumpet?

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Blowing Of The Shofar

Let's talk a minute about the blowing of the shofar, the ram's horn, also called a trumpet in the Bible. The blowing of the ram's horn is connected with the ushering in of the biblical festivals of Israel, but is particularly connected with Rosh HaShana and the period proceeding the fall holidays. The shofar is usually a ram's horn because it is connected to God's provision to Abraham of a ram to sacrifice, instead of his son, Isaac (*Gen. 22*). This portion of scripture is read on Rosh HaShana.

The shofar can also be made from the horn of a sheep, goat or antelope, but never, never from a cow, as that would be reminiscent of the golden calf made by the children of Israel in the desert, as described in *Exodus 32*. The shofar can be engraved, but not embellished, because *Deuteronomy 4:2* tells us we can't add anything to the Word. In the Bible, the blowing of the shofar was first heard when God called Moses to the summit of Mt. Sinai to receive the two tablets of the law. And it will be sounded at the end of days to usher the ingathering of the exiles of Israel into their land.

The sounding of the shofar **1)** symbolizes freedom and liberty, **2)** proclaims the anniversary of the creation of the world, **3)** is a reminder of the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai, and **4)** is a sound that is guaranteed to confuse and chase Satan away. In modern times, the blowing of the shofar is connected with the Jewish month of Elul, the period of repentance. The ram's horn is sounded to inspire the people to amend their lives. On Rosh HaShana, it is blown some 100 times, and on Yom Kippur, it is blown only once at the end of the 24-hour fast. From biblical description, there are three different sounds blown on the shofar on Rosh HaShana. They are:

TIKIYAH - A single long blast **SHEPHARIM** - 3 blasts together
TRUAH - 9 short staccato blasts together.

On Rosh HaShana, the shofar is usually blown in a combination of all three sounds, three times each to be certain that the commandment to

sound the shofar is correctly made.

What Trumpet Is Sounding In Your Life?

As an application to this holiday, I want us to focus on the uses of the shofar in the Bible. Consider each one, for they can teach us many things about the Lord in relation to our own lives. *Numbers 10:1-10*, tells us of a number of uses for the trumpet.

1) The trumpet was used to call an assembly: *Numbers 10:2* says, "Make two trumpets of hammered silver and use them for calling the community together." *Numbers 10:7* confirms, "To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets."

2) The trumpet was used to direct God's people: *Numbers 10:2-6* tells us that the trumpet was used as a signal to the twelve tribes to direct them when they set out on their journeys. *Numbers 10:6* says, "The blast will be the signal for setting out." Is God calling us into a new direction?

3) The trumpet was used to call the people to consecration: The prophet Joel takes this idea a step farther and tells the leaders of Israel to use the trumpet as a call to consecration. *Joel 2:15-17* says: "Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the priests who minister before the Lord, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord...'"

The trumpet blast of Rosh HaShana brought Israel into the Days of Awe, a season of consecration. Then, one long blast announced Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement. This was necessary to rout sin out of the camp. Tabernacles followed with the blessing of tabernacling with the Lord in His succah (booth). Tabernacles can only come after Atonement. We must be a holy people to be in the presence of the Lord. We may need to face our own sinful lives squarely, and seek God's forgiveness. All of us need to hear the trumpet call of consecration.

4) The trumpet was used for warfare: *Numbers 10:9* says, "When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you,

sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the Lord your God and rescued from your enemies." What a wonderful promise of protection and deliverance. Let's see how it worked in practice: In *Joshua 6*, the Children of Israel were told to march around the walls of Jericho for six days with the Ark of the Covenant, and trumpeters blowing ram's horns in front of it. Then, on the seventh day, there was to be one long blast and the people were told to shout. When they did this, the walls fell. This exercise was an act of faith, and God acted upon this faith. In *Judges 7*, Gideon slew 120,000 of the enemy with 300 men who blew trumpets and carried torches into the battle. *Judges 7:22* says, "*When the 300 trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.*"

In *Jeremiah 4:19*, the prophet exclaims, "*My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent. For I have heard the sound of the trumpet; I have heard the battle cry.*" We read in *I Cor. 14: 8*, "*If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?*" Personally, each of us have battles that need God's help and intervention. Are we sounding the Lord's trumpet in our lives and looking to Him for the deliverance? Or, are we trying to do it on our own?

5) The trumpet was used in worship: *Numbers 10:10* says, "*Also at your times of rejoicing - your appointed feasts and new moon festivals - you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God.*" In *Psalms 150:3*, we are commanded to "*Praise the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.*" In *Psalms 81:3-4*, we are told to, "*Blow the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.*" Today, in Israel, the shofar is also sounded every Friday afternoon as the Sabbath approaches.

There is a call going out today as never before to worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth. Are we listening to the clear clarion sound of the Lord's trumpet? When He comes, will we hear the trumpet and fall on our knees in worship?

6) The trumpet was blown in the presence of God: We already learned that the trumpeters went before the Ark of the Lord as the Children of Israel marched around the walls of Jericho. When David brought the Ark up to Jerusalem, it says, "*So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of Yahweh with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.*" (*II Sam 15:10*) Worship was lifted up continually before the Lord in the Temple. *I Chron. 16:6* tells us, "*and Beniah and Yahaziel,*

the priests, were to blow the trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God." The Lord is present in the sounding of the trumpet.

7) The trumpet was used in biblical times for the coronation of kings: In *I Kings 1:39* we read, "*Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, 'Long live King Solomon!'*" The picture is plain in the spiritual realm. In the long, sad history of this world there have been many pretenders to the throne, and there are many today. However, God is the Creator and sustainer of this universe. He is, and has always been, its rightful king. This fact will soon be acknowledged by everyone, as the trumpet sounds proclaiming it when He comes. There is a great coronation about to take place as the true God is acknowledged by men, angels, principalities, and powers. The Bible says, "*For it is written: 'As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God'*" (*Rom. 14:11*).

8) The trumpet also announced the coming of God's judgment: *Joel 2:1* says, "*Blow the trumpet in Zion, sound the alarm on My holy mountain. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming... It is close at hand.*" We also get this understanding from a whole passage in Revelation, which deals with the sounding of seven trumpets yet to come. (*Rev. 8:6 - 10:7*). We see that their sounding covers a period of time, and that the period is filled with many horrors and disasters for this sinful world. The last trumpet will bring an end to this creation.

However, before the last trumpet, there must be a first trumpet, then a second, and so on. The first blast is sounded as an early warning to repent to escape the coming judgment. *Ezekiel 33* is a passage about the watchmen on the walls, blowing their trumpets to warn the people to repent of their sins. If the watchmen blew their trumpets and the people refused to heed its call, then the judgment would be on their own heads. However, if the watchman did not sound the alarm, then God would judge the watchman who failed in his task. Are we being faithful watchmen on the walls, blowing the trumpet to call people to repentance? Surely, we will be held accountable before the Lord.

9) The shofar is used to herald the coming of the Lord - Messiah Yeshua - in His Second Coming: We Christians believe that the Messiah will receive the crown and all the authority in this universe. In *Revelation 11:15* we read, "*Then the seventh angel sounded: and there*

were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ (Messiah), and He shall reign forever and ever!'" In I Thess. 4:16-18, we read, "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, encourage each other with these words."

Yes, we will not all sleep - the trumpet shall sound - the dead shall be raised - we shall be changed. *I Corinthians 15:52, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*