



Yahweh, The Almighty God of Israel, Is With Us!

Where Biblical Truth Comes Alive!



The Shofar

Introduction



A **'shofar'** is a ram's horn trumpet, one of the earliest wind instruments known to man. Its symbolic use by the people of Israel is described in this article.

The subject of the **SHOFAR**. The **ram's horn trumpet**, is one of the first instruments played by the ancient Israelites. Bible references concerning the **'shofar'** (a Hebrew word which according to Strong's Dictionary, #07782, is translated **'trumpet'** in 68 of the 72 times it appears in the Old Testament) tell us many meaningful things about this ancient wind instrument. But before we consider the Bible references, here are a few facts concerning the **'shofar'** taken from the **Jewish Encyclopaedia**.

- "It was the voice of the **shofar** **'exceeding loud'** issuing from the thick cloud on Sinai that made all in the camp tremble (Ex xix. 16, xx.18): and for this reason while other musical instruments were in each age constructed according to the most advanced contemporary practice, the trumpet family being represented by the long straight silver **'hazozerah...'** the **shofar** has never varied in structure from its prehistoric simplicity and crudity.
- ...The curved **shofar** is symbolic of the contrite heart repenting on the most solemn days of **Rosh ha Shanah** and **Yom Kippur**.
- The **shofar** represents the windpipe, the spiritual part of the body alongside the gullet, through which the food or the earthly part passes. The sound of the **shofar** awakens the Higher Mercy = **'Rahamim...'** The object of the second and third series of **'teki-ot'** is to bewilder and stagger **Satan**, who, at first imagining that the Jews are merely complying with the Law, is surprised by the second blowing, thinking perhaps that the **Messiah is coming**, and finally is dumbfounded, expecting the **Resurrection**, with which his power will finally cease."

Now let us take a look at some Bible texts. We will simply list them before ending with a short summary. Each time you see the word **trumpet** in the Old Testament verses below, remember that the original Hebrew word was **'shofar.'**

You may even want to study the full Bible story from which these brief quotations are taken. That is a study in itself. Also, when reading, note **when** the **'shofars'** were blown, **who** blew them, **what** events did they herald, **what** were the people of Israel supposed to do when they heard the **'shofar'** and **how** did the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob respond. Note also how the LORD Himself is going to blow the **'Great Shofar!'** Here are the texts:

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1. At Mount Sinai

Exodus 19: 16: *“And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the **trumpet** exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.”*

Exodus 19: 19: *“And when the voice of the **trumpet** sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.”*

Exodus 20: 18: *“And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the **trumpet**, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.”*

2. On The Almighty’s Sabbaths

Psalm 81: 3: *“Blow up the **trumpet** in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.”*

Leviticus 23: 24: *“Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of **trumpets**, an holy convocation.”*

Leviticus 25: 9: *“Then shalt thou cause the **trumpet** of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the **trumpet** sound throughout all your land.”*

3. At The Destruction of Jericho

Joshua 6: 4: *“And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven **trumpets of rams’ horns**: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the **trumpets**.*

*5: And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the **ram’s horn**, and when ye hear the sound of the **trumpet**, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him...”*

Joshua 6: 20: *“So the people shouted when the priests blew with the **trumpets**: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”*

4. Victory In Warfare

Judges 7: 16: *“And he (Gideon) divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a **trumpet** in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers...”*

Judges 7: 20: *And the three companies blew the **trumpets**, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the **trumpets** in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the **LORD**, and of Gideon.”*

2 Chronicles 13: 12: *And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with **sounding trumpets** to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the **LORD** God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.*

13: *But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them.*

14: *And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the **LORD**, and the **priests sounded with the trumpets**.*

15: *Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.”*

5. The Return of The Ark

2 Samuel 6: 15: *“So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the **LORD** with shouting, and with the sound of the **trumpet**.”*

6. The Anointing of King Solomon

1 Kings 1: 34: *“And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the **trumpet**, and say, God save king Solomon.”*

7. The Dedication of The Temple

2 Chronicles 5: 13: *“It came even to pass, as the **trumpeters** and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the **LORD**; and when they lifted up their voice with the **trumpets** and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the **LORD**, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the **LORD**.”*

8. Rebuilding of Jerusalem

Nehemiah 4: 18: *“For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the **trumpet** was by me.”*

Nehemiah 4: 20: *“In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the **trumpet** resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.”*

9. A Watchmen's Responsibilities

Ezekiel 33: 3: *"If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the **trumpet**, and warn the people;*

*4: Then whosoever heareth the sound of the **trumpet**, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.*

*5: He heard the sound of the **trumpet**, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.*

*6: But if the **watchman** see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."*

10. Warnings Concerning Sins

Isaiah 58: 1: *"Cry aloud, spare not, **lift up thy voice like a trumpet**, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."*

Joel 2: 1: *"**Blow ye 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** cometh, for it is nigh at hand."*

11. The LORD Shall Blow The Shofar!

Zechariah 9: 14: *"And the **LORD** shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and **the LORD GOD shall blow the trumpet**, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south."*

Isaiah 18: 3: *"All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when **HE bloweth a trumpet**, hear ye."*

Isaiah 27: 13: *"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the **GREAT trumpet shall be blown**, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the **LORD** in the holy mount at Jerusalem."*

12. Alas! Many Will Not Listen

It is an absolute tragedy that, like Israel of old, millions of people pay little or no attention to the Almighty's Word and the warnings it contains. Blindly they stagger on, refusing to acknowledge the Creator's presence, His Word, His Law and His offer of salvation through His only begotten Son **Yeshua the Messiah**. This is the greatest mistake the human race has ever made and - alas - is still making!

Jeremiah 6: 17: *"Also I set watchmen over you, saying, **Hearken to the sound of the trumpet**. But they said, **We will not hearken**."*

Summary

The 'shofar,' the ram's horn trumpet, represents the spokesmen of **Yahweh** the Almighty God of Israel; through whom His Spirit declares the **Truth**. It is a musical instrument of antiquity - **of God's own making!**

1. A '**divine shofar**' sounded at **Sinai** when the **Creator** of the mighty universe gave Israel His holy law - for all mankind! Blowing its earthly counterpart (the **ram's horn**) today, is declaring one's acceptance of God's eternal **commandments** and authority over us.
2. The '**shofar**' was, and still is, sounded on **Yahweh's High and Holy Days**: i.e. the weekly **Sabbath**, the Feast of **Trumpets**, the **Day of Atonement** and in the day of the **New Moon**. Blowing it today is a reminder of the **Everlasting Covenant** between the Almighty God and His chosen people Israel.
3. The '**shofar**' was instrumental in triggering the Almighty's power when He demolished the walls of Jericho in the days of Joshua. Blowing it today is an **act of living faith** in the Almighty's ability to demolish the systems of this world, however high and mighty **their ramparts may be**.
4. The '**shofar**' will always herald victory in warfare, provided the people of the LORD are obedient to His law. Blowing it today is a **call for divine assistance**.
5. The '**shofar**' was sounded when king David brought the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem. Blowing it today is a **sign of our re-commitment to the Holy One of Israel**.
6. The '**shofar**' was sounded when Solomon was anointed king of Israel. Blowing it today is a **declaration of our loyalty to the King of Kings, Yeshua the Messiah**, One who is wiser and greater than Solomon.
7. The '**shofar**' was sounded when the Temple was dedicated. Blowing it today is a **call to worship**.
8. The '**shofar**' was sounded when Israel's exiles returned from captivity to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the second Temple. Blowing it today is a **symbol of the restoration of God's Truth**.
9. The '**shofar**' was blown by the watchmen on Zion's walls to warn the inhabitants of the sword of the enemy. Blowing it today is a **signal to awake to the danger of Satanic attack**.
10. The '**shofar**' was sounded by the watchmen and prophets of Israel to warn of sin. In like manner we must warn God's people else we will have blood on our hands! Blowing it today is a **call to faith, repentance and obedience**.
11. Before the end of this age, all humanity will hear the **LORD Himself sound the Great Shofar**, the heavenly trumpet which will raise the dead. Blowing the **ram's horn shofar** today is a **reminder that we are fast approaching that time**.

12. Alas! most people will not heed these warnings, even when they are backed by the **Word of God**. To them the '**shofar**' is an embarrassment and divine warnings only stir up contempt and anger. Do not let this happen to you, because that would be a disaster! For the fact is, the '**call of the shofar**' signifies all that is dear to the **God of Israel: truth, repentance, obedience, dedication, restoration, sanctification, warning, expectation, victory and resurrection from the dead!** So in future when you hear the '**call of the shofar**' remember these things, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and bless His holy Name. It may be that He will spare you in the fast-approaching **Day of Judgment!**

We will end here with the prayer that **YAHWEH the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel**, Creator of the mighty universe and **Father of our Lord and Saviour Yeshua the Messiah** will bless all those who seek to **trust** and **obey** Him.

'Hallelujah!'

We speak with **A Word of Caution to Preachers!** which comes from the pen of **Jack A. Moorman** in his booklet **Conies, Brass & Easter**.

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In the Son's Name For the Father's Glory

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