

**Questions for
Messianic Bible
Teacher
Paul Cohen**



Q *In an email Anne asked during your Rosh Hashanah service, you mentioned and blew the shofar one hundred times with three distinct notes, could you please explain a little more about the shofar, what the three notes meant?*

A

Dear Anne,
Thank you for being at our Rosh Hashanah service, we hope you had a great time, as to your questions.



Before I explain the musical notes, I would like to note that this holy season has a few different names the most common name in Christian circles is Feast of Trumpets and for Jewish people it is commonly called Rosh Hashanah, but the bible calls this day זכרון תרועה (Zicharon Truah or Zichron Teruah), the Memorial of Blowing, Leviticus 23:24, and יום תרועה (Yom Teruah or Yom Truah); the day of the blowing (sounding of the shofar) in Numbers 29:1.

Secondly that the שופר shofar is an animal horn from a kosher animal, but not a cow's horn, this is because of the golden calf incident (Exodus 32). There are two popular types of horn these days. The Ram's horns which is the most popular for the shorter horns. And there are very large horns from the Kudu (an African Antelope with very long horns).



In ancient times the horn was used to sound the alarm, a short horn was easy to carry. Today we do not run in battle with shofarot (plural of shofar) but with phones. The shofar is the mega-phone of the past, not private like a mobile phone, but with different notes a friend or foe could be warned.

Today there are three different sounds called forth and blown by the baal tekiah (ba'al tokea / master blower):

1. The תקע Tekiah

The very first sound that was blown is called the tekiah, it was that long, single plain straight blast, it was a smooth and unbroken note that is meant to suggest the sounds of joy and happiness.

2. The שברים Shevarim

The second sound we heard, is called the shevarim, it was the three short blasts. This was a combination of three distinct and broken notes to symbolize a call to repentance and give expression to our grief.

3. The תרועה Truah

The third sound is known as the truah. They were the very short blasts in a group of nine staccato notes, nine quick blasts in short succession. These notes symbolizes apprehension, grief, and even a deep weeping or crying. This note is sometimes written as Teruah or t'ruah it comes from the Hebrew word רוע which means to thrust through, and that is the meaning behind the first three notes.

4. The תקיעה גדולה Tekiah Gedolah (g'dolah)

The final sound we heard from the shofar was the very long Tekiah it is the same sound just a lot longer, the tekiah gedolah, which means "the great tekiah" has also been called the last or final trump. This one final note symbolizes the hope of redemption.

Some Biblical References to the Shofar and the sounds of Shofar

History:

- 1) The sound of the shofar was there when the Mosaic Law was received (Ex. 19:16, 19; 20:18, Hebrews 12:19).
- 2) The sound of the shofar was heard at the fall of the walls of Jericho (Josh. 6:4, 8, 9, 13, 16).
- 3) The sound of the shofar was caused confusion when Gideon blew it near the camp of the Midianites (Judg. 7:16, 18-20, 22).
- 4) The sound of the shofar was heard as an alarm or a call to war (Numbers 23:21; Judges. 3:27; I Samuel 13:3; II Samuel 20:1; II Chronicles 13:12; Nehemiah 4:18; Isaiah 18:3; Jeremiah 20:16; 42:14; Ezekiel 21:22; 33: 3-6; Hosea 8:1; Joel 2:1; Amos 3:6; Zephaniah 1:16 and Zechariah. 9:14, I Corinthians 14:8).
- 5) The sound of the shofar was heard at the anointing of a king (II Samuel 15:10; I Kings 1:34).

Festivals:

- 6) The sound of the shofar was heard at festivals (Leviticus 23:24; 25:9 Numbers 29:1; Psalm 81:3).

Praise and Worship:

- 7) The sounds of the shofar were used as praise to God (Psalm 47:5; 98:6; 150:3).
- 8) The sound of the shofar was used for the shouts of joy (I Samuel 4:5-6; Ezra 3:11-13; Job 8:21; 33:26; Psalm 27:6; 33:3; 89:15).

Teshuvah, repentance:

- 9) The sound of the shofar was heard as a call to repentance (II Chronicles 15:14; Joel 2:15).
- 10) The sound of the shofar was used as a declaration of Israel's sins (Isaiah 58:1).

Prophetic:

- 11) The sound of the shofar will be used to usher in judgment (Revelation 8-9).
- 12) The sound of the shofar is blown in a prophetic sense when the Jewish people come home to the land of Israel and make aliah (Go up) (Isaiah 27:13; Matthew 24:31).
- 13) The sound of the shofar is blown when the Lord Yeshua will return and the dead in Messiah shall be raised (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:50-58).

Symbolic of God's voice:

- 14) The sound of the shofar is seen as a symbol of the voice of God (Revelation 1:10; 4:1).

שלום בישועה המשיחית

*Shanah Tova and
Shalom in Yeshua the Messiah*

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