

# LISTENING FOR THE SHOFAR!

## PART 1

The Bride of Christ has an amazing HOPE! We know that the world is not our home! We are AMBASSADORS to Christ! As it is custom for governments before war breaks out, ambassadors are called home! Similarly, we will be called home to be with the Lord Himself before His judgment of the earth begins. Our ears are to be turning away from all the empty hope that this world falsely offers and tuning our spiritual ears to hear the VOICE of the coming PRINCE OF PEACE! We are not to be ignorant of the signs of His soon return! We are to be expectantly anticipating this with a joyful heart – not reluctantly clinging to this world.

### 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (Complete Jewish Bible)

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with God's shofar; those who died united with the Messiah will be the first to rise; 17 **then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.** 18 So encourage each other with these words.



### 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (Complete Jewish Bible)

51 Look, I will tell you a secret — not all of us will die! But we will all be changed! 52 It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we too will be changed.

Yes, we believers in Jesus Christ are listening for the sound of the SHOFAR - also referred to as the VOICE OF THE PRINCE. **Jesus repeatedly referred to Himself as the Good Shepherd. His sheep know His voice. Those who know His voice will be called up to meet Him in the air!**

### John 10:1-4 (NKJV)

1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 **But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.** 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

### John 10:14-16 (NKJV)

14 I am the good shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me — 15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father — and I lay down my life on behalf of the sheep. 16 Also I have other sheep which are not from this pen; I need to bring them, and they will hear my voice; and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

We are listening for our Shepherd's voice and the sound of this final shofar! It could be any day now! We find mainly 2 types of *horns* of the Old Testament that were “musical” instruments: the straight, long and narrow trumpet of silver (*chatsotserah*) and the *shofar* שׁוֹפָר (shophar) that was curved, and of a whole piece.

What was the difference between a TRUMPET and a SHOFAR? A TRUMPET is made by man and was straight and was of silver (silver is symbolic of redemption); a shofar is said to be made by Heaven because it stands as though prepared on the head of the ram. They often are played together to sound an alarm.

The SHOFAR is used distinctively to **awaken people from a spiritual slumber.**

The TRUMPET sounded the alarm (Numbers 10:1-10) giving the Israelites specific directions to assemble, to move camp or to summon to war.

We're going to look closer at the showphar/shofar [Strong's #H7782] which is mentioned frequently in the Bible from Exodus to Zechariah. It is mostly identified with **the horn of the ram. Its voice was “exceeding loud” as it sounded from the thick cloud on Sinai, causing the Israelites to tremble (Exodus 19:16; 20:18). God used it as a weapon of sorts during the unusual siege of Jericho. (Joshua 6:4) It was customarily sounded on days of fasting, to announce the Sabbath, as well as on the special feast of Yom Teruah (the Feast of Trumpets).**

Unlike the harp that was made to calm and to console, the SHOFAR was made to **GRAB HOLD OF THE ATTENTION** of the people. It is a symbol of **HUMILITY** (bent, undecorated, natural) like the ideal relationship between man and God. The curved shofar is symbolic of the contrite heart repenting on the most solemn days of Rosh ha Shanah and Yom Kippur. It is the epitome of **Peace-Through-Strength** – being a horn of a ram, a peaceful animal equipped with strong horns to fend off the enemy. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/13602-shofar>

Both the SHOFAR and TRUMPET used a discernible “language” of signals and sounds, demonstrating the **ORDERLINESS** of God's communication to His people.

Paul refers to prophesy/tongues – if someone doesn't understand, what good is that prophesy? It won't be edifying and will bring confusion.

**1 Corinthians 14:8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?**

**A most interesting characteristic attributed to the shofar is its “INCISING” (sharp/cutting) nature. The shofar was an instrument that spiritually cut into the heart. It was referred to as a “PREPARER” of the heart to call for repentance. God similarly used the prophet, John the Baptist – who was prophesied about in Isaiah 40:3 (KJV) The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

**Both the shofar and trumpet with their clear, penetrating call can be likened to the Word of God: Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, PIERCING even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. [emphasis added]**

In his commentary, Matthew Henry wrote that these “trumpets typify the preached gospel. It sounds an alarm to sinners, calls them to repent, proclaims liberty to the captives and slaves of Satan, and collects the worshippers of God. It directs and encourages their heavenly journey; stirs them up to combat against the world and sin, encouraging them with the

assurance of victory. It leads their attention to the sacrifice of Christ, and shows the Lord’s presence for their protection. It is also necessary that the gospel trumpet give a distinct sound, according to the persons addressed, or the end proposed; whether to convince, humble, console, exhort, reprove or teach. The sounding of the trumpet of the gospel is God’s ordinance, and demands the attention of all to whom it is sent.”

**In-cise:** to carve figures, letters, or devices into:  
**ENGRAVE:** to carve (as an inscription) into a surface.

**Showphar/ sho-far' שׁוֹפָר Strong's H7782**  
from H8231 in the original sense of incising; a cornet (as giving a clear sound) or curved horn:—cornet, trumpet.

**from the root, shaphar:** שָׁפַר “to be pleasing, be beautiful, be fair, be comely, be bright, glisten.”

As though a brilliant sound.

The Word of God performs HEART SURGERY through the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT!

**Ezekiel 36:26 (KJV) A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:** and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

**2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup>Ye are our epistle **written in our hearts**, known and read of all men:

<sup>3</sup> Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; **not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.**

**Interestingly I have seen it referred to as the VOICE OF THE PRINCE. The sound of the shofar is said to awaken the Higher Mercy = “Rahamim”. It is taught that the shofar makes the sound of the "Voice of Yaaqov" that causes God to move from the Seat of Judgment to the Mercy Seat.** It signals the PRESENCE OF GOD, the WILL of God – causes people to tremble and to draw close to Him. The shofar can be made to produce sobbing, wailing, and sustained sounds in sequences. Clearly, the SHOFAR, the ram’s horn moves people to REPENT and to TREMBLE before a holy God.

**Jewish teaching: on BIRTH/CREATION**

The shofar is likened to the raw sound of the human *neshama*, the soul. It is this sound that they say Adam heard as he wakened from his creation, **the sound of a shofar, the sound made by his neshama as it entered him.**

The shofar is likened to the birth canal – the air rushing through it to create a plaintiff cry is the breath of life, and the sound that we hear recalls the cries of labor.

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/article/s/13602-shofar>

To which I'd add the **SPIRITUAL REBIRTH** as Christ may have eluded to:

**John 3:5-8 (NKJV)**

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 **The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.**"

The shofar also represents **the windpipe the spiritual part of the body** alongside the gullet, through which the food or the earthly part passes.

That's neat because the HOLY SPIRIT is likened to a **rushing mighty wind**. (Acts 2:2); and Jesus made the comparison to the wind and being born of the Spirit (John 3:8)

**Psalm 89:16 (Complete Jewish Bible)** How happy are the people *who know the joyful shout!* [who know the *teru'ah*=the shofar blast] They walk in the light of your presence, ADONAI.

Taking into consideration that the SHOFAR is pictured as the SOUND OF GOD'S VOICE, and the VOICE of the PRINCE, **it's neat to think that David may have been also saying that happy are the people who KNOW Him....KNOW HIS VOICE!**

**Terua** Strong's H8643 - trumpet blast, jubile (related to JUBILEE! Celebration of freedom!) comes from the word "**rua**" 7321 – to shout, to sound the battle cry, to make a joyful noise.

**THE SHOFAR USED IN FEAST DAYS:**

**FEAST OF YOM TERUAH:** (Leviticus

23:23-25 – The day of noise/blasts/shouting (Starts

1st day of 7th month, on NEW MOON, and lasts 2 days) The most important modern use of the shofar in religious ceremonies takes place on **Yom Teruah which is known as the Feast of Trumpets in Christianity** and is better known as Rosh Hashana (the new year) in modern Judaism. It is the first of the 3 fall feasts and precedes the solemn Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, as though serving to stir people's hearts to repentance.

**LEVITICUS 23:23-25 (NKJV)**

23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In **the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.** 25 You shall do no customary work *on it*; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.' "

To Christians, the FEAST OF TRUMPETS is a PICTURE OF THE RAPTURE of the Bride of Christ when believers hear the last TRUMPET and SHOUT FOR JOY and meet the Lord in the air! (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

### **FEAST OF YOM KIPPUR, DAY OF ATONEMENT**

- 10<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month:

Leviticus 23:26-28

26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 27 “Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement.

It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. 28

And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

### **THE SPECIAL JUBILEE YEAR:**

Leviticus 25:8-10 (Complete Jewish Bible)

8“ You are to count seven *Shabbats* of years, seven times seven years, that is, forty-nine years. 9 Then, on the tenth day of the seventh month, on *Yom-Kippur*, you are to sound a blast on the *shofar*; you are to sound the *shofar* all through your land; 10 and you are to consecrate the fiftieth year, proclaiming freedom throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It will be a *yovel* [*yovel*=*jubile*, *ram's horn*, *trumpet*] for you; you will return everyone to the land he owns, and everyone is to return to his family.

According to the Talmud, servants were formally freed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Tishri (Year of Jubilee) but were allowed to remain on the homestead of their former masters and to enjoy themselves for 10 days. The *shofar* was blown (Lev 25:9) as a signal for the servant's departure, and for the restoration of the fields to their original owners. In Revelation 5 Jesus is the only One worthy to open the scroll - the original deed/ownership to earth signifying its long-awaited restoration and the millennial reign of Christ on earth.

**FEAST OF TABERNACLES (SUKKOT):** the SHOFAR was blown at the morning service on each of the 7 days. This Feast is also referred to as “The Season of Our Joy” when Jewish people around the world build huts/booths to remember how God, the Great Shepherd, chose to “tabernacle with them,” to protect and bless them.

Leviticus 23:39-43 (NKJV)

39 ‘Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there

An early picture of ATONEMENT:NOAH'S ARK, a place where God's remnant of believers were kept safe during God's judgment of the world:

Genesis 6:14

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch

pitch= קָפַר *kâphar*, kaw-far'; a primitive root; to cover (specifically with bitumen); figuratively, to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel:—appease, make (an atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge (away), put off, (make) reconcile(-liation).

*shall be* a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. **40** And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the [f]fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and **you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.** **41** You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. *It shall be* a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. **42** You shall dwell in [g]booths for seven days. **All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.’ ”**

**DURING THIS FEAST, a special ritual was performed: a LIBATION OF WATER WAS MADE TOGETHER WITH THE POURING OUT OF WINE,** (Suk. iv. 1; Yoma 26b), the water being drawn from the Pool of Siloam in a golden ewer of the capacity of 3 logs. It was borne in solemn procession to the water-gate of the Temple, **where the train halted while on the Shofar was blown “teki’ah, teru’ah, tekia’ah.”** The procession then ascended the “kebesh,” or slanting bridge to the altar, toward the left, where stood on the east side of the altar a silver bowl for the water and on the west another for wine...Both libations were poured out simultaneously. (Suk. iv 9). (<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14794-water-drawing-feast-of>)

**Jesus, God in the flesh, was the CRY OF THE SHOFAR. At the Feast of Tabernacles, HE CRIED OUT.** I am that WATER LIBATION you were religiously following! He was also prepared to be poured out as the Lamb of God:

**John 7:37-38 (KJV)**

**37** In the last day, that great day of the feast, **Jesus stood and cried, [krazo in Greek=a loud voice] saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

**38** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**39**(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

**Oh, I can hear Christ's plaintive cry! Unfortunately He has been removed outside the door of many churches who for “relevancy” sake have ejected Him and replaced Him with “social gospel programs.” Those who have rejected sound doctrine to be entertained and placated and accepted by the world. However, despite our lack of faithfulness, He remains forever faithful, loving and merciful. But there is coming an end to this PERIOD OF GRACE. There's coming a time when it will be too late to be counted amongst His sheep. The Good Shepherd will CRY OUT!**

**1 Corinthians 15:52 (KJV)** 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.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (KJV)**

**<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**



<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

### **Revelation 4:1-2 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: **and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**

<sup>2</sup> **And immediately I was in the spirit:** and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 (KJV)**

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. **2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.** **3** For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. **4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.** **5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.** **6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.** **7** For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. **8** But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. **9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,** **10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.** **11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.**

*This is the sound we are waiting for! Come up hither! This is the precious shout of victory of Jesus Christ to those who call Him their Savior! To those who have undergone spiritual "heart surgery." That is, they have received forgiveness - by faith in the shedding of His blood on the Cross for their sin and His death and resurrection! (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) The REDEEMED who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit who are awaiting the REDEMPTION of their bodies! And just as we will see, the blowing of the horn comes with REJOICING AND SHOUTING. Thanks to God's Grace and Mercy! We watch...we wait! We comfort ourselves together!*

Studied by Cindy Roth