

Sound Up!

“¹³It will also come about in that day, a great shofar will be blown. Those perishing in the land of Assyria and the exiles in the land of Egypt will come and worship Adonai on the holy mountain in Jerusalem” (Isa 27:13).

In Hebrew *Yom* means day and *Teruah* means an awakening blast. Thus, a prominent theme associated with *Yom Teruah* is “wake up.” *Teruah* is also translated in the Bible as a “shout.” The Messianic reign is associated with a shout (Isaiah 12:6; 42:11, Jer. 31:7; Zephaniah 3:14). Isaiah 44:23 states: “Sing, O heavens, for Adonai has done it! Shout, depths of the earth! Break forth into singing, mountains, forest, and every tree in it! For Adonai has redeemed Jacob and will be glorified through Israel.” The first coming of *Yeshua* is associated with a shout: “Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you, a righteous one bringing salvation. He is lowly, riding on a donkey—on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zech. 9:9). The second coming of Messiah is also associated with a shout: “¹⁶For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God’s shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first” (1Thes 4:16, also see Exodus 19:16).

Whether it is by the blast of a *shofar* or by the force of a supernatural shout, God’s goal is the same – to awaken us! The Book of Ephesians has many references to *Yom Teruah/Rosh Hashanah*: “¹⁴for everything made visible is light. This is why it says, “Wake up, O sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Messiah will shine on you” (Ephesians 5:14).

Isaiah 26:19 ties the resurrection with the awaking shout of the *shofar*, as it is written: “Yet it will be: “Your dead will live! My corpses will rise! Awake and shout for joy, you who dwell in the dust! Your dew is like the dew of the dawn. The land of dead souls will come to life!” This theme of awakening is used throughout the Bible, e.g., John 11:11, Romans 13:11 “Besides this, you know the time—that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first came to trust.” It is also found in Psalm 78:65 and Daniel 12:1, 2: “At that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has never occurred since the beginning of the nation until then. But at that time your people—everyone who is found written in the book—will be delivered. ²Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake—some to everlasting life, and others to shame and everlasting contempt.” The *shofar* is the physical instrument that the Almighty instructed us to use. It is calling us to awake from spiritual slumber: “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52). The apostle Paul said he was showing us a great mystery – perhaps it is the *shofar/shout*!

Another reason for sounding the *shofar* is that *Rosh HaShanah* is the traditional Jewish celebration of the birth of creation. God began to rule over the world on this day. When a king begins to reign, he is heralded with trumpets and *shofarim*: “O clap your hands, all ye people; shout (*Teruah*) unto God with the voice of triumph... God is gone up with a shout (*Teruah*), Adonai with the sound of a trumpet (*shofar*).” In Jewish tradition, many more reasons have been offered for the sounding of the *shofar*. The ram's horn (*shofar*) is identified with the ram that became the substitute sacrifice for Isaac in Genesis 22 (this is called the *akeidah* in Hebrew and it is one of the prominent themes of *Yom Teruah*). Therefore, awake; awake O Jerusalem (*Kol Simcha*), for your king is soon coming! *L^eShanah Tovah*!