

SHOFAR

TRUMPET, shofar (shoh-fahr), Strong's H7782: A trumpet made from a curved animal horn; a cornet. The shofar is mentioned over 70 times, first in Ex. 19:16, 19, and 20:18, where a trumpet sounded at Mt. Sinai, heralding the Lord's descent and the giving of the Law.

To sound the ram's horn came from the root word "teruwah" in Hebrew which means clangor of trumpets, acclamation of joy, clamor, rejoicing, high joyful sound, loud noise, wild shout, a battle cry, to announce forcefully or loudly. "Uwah" means to split the ears with sound. The ram's horn represents the ram caught in the thicket, when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac. Likewise, it represents God's humble substitute for us, Jesus Christ.

SOUNDING THE SHOFAR

The shofar is one of the earliest musical instruments known to humanity. It was developed by the early Hebrews and is made from the horn of an animal, usually a ram but sometimes of a sheep, goat, mountain goat, antelope, or gazelle (not of a cow because of the golden calf incident).

SHOFAR CALLS

There are traditional Jewish shofar calls, but don't be limited by that. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit how He might direct it to be blown.

- **Tekiah:** the "blast", one long blast with a clear tone (praise/worship)
- **Shevarim:** a "broken", sighing sound of three short calls (repentance/broken)
- **Teruah:** the "alarm", a rapid series of nine or more very short notes (warfare/victory)
- **Tekiah Gedolah:** "the great Tekiah", a single unbroken blast, held as long as possible (jubilee/goodness/redemption/healing)
- **a combination** of Tekiah, Shevarim, Teruah, ending with a Tekiah Gedolah

EXAMPLES OF SCRIPTURAL USES

- Blown to herald the Day of Atonement; to announce the Year of Jubilee (Lev. 25:9-10)
- Blown continually by seven priests before the Ark, as part of strategic warfare (Josh. 6:4-20)
- Blown by Gideon to rally troops and by 300 in battle to bring confusion to the enemy (Judg. 6:34, 7:8, 16-20)
- Blown to usher in the ark of the Lord (His Presence) as David danced (II Sam. 6:12-15)
- Blown to announce God's presence and to praise and worship Him (Ps. 98:6, Ps. 47:5, Ps. 150:3)
- Blown to call people to repentance; to call assembly together for repentance and fasting (Is. 58:1, Joel 2:1, 15)
- Blown to sound the alarm of war (Jer. 4:19, 21)
- Blown by the angels (Mat. 24:3, Rev. 8:2-3)
- Blown at His coming (I Cor. 15:52, I Thess. 4:16)