

The Feast of BLOWING (Yom Teruah)

by Roly Buys

The Fall Feast season is upon us!!

- **Day 1: Yom Teruah**
 - (Feast of Trumpets)
- **Day 10: Yom Kippur**
 - (Day of Atonement)
- **Day 15: Sukkot**
 - (Feast of Tabernacles)

Yom Teruah not only marks the beginning of the new month — but also the start of the Fall Feast season ...

The unique feature of this Feast is the ritual of blowing an instrument:



Numbers 29:1 "In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you are to have a holy convocation; do not do any kind of ordinary work; it is a **day of blowing the shofar** for you."

The HEBREW word used above for "blowing of the trumpet" is *teruah* (Strong's H8643), which comes from the ROOT word *rua* (Strong's H7321), meaning:

- To shout in triumph.
- Acclamation of joy/applause.
- A battle cry, especially charge of the trumpets.
- Blow an alarm.
- Shouting.

And we blow on YHVH's (GOD the FATHER'S) Day ...

An aside ...

This Feast has been "kidnapped" in a sense. The name used today (Rosh Hashanah) is not Biblical. The connotation that this day has to do with a civil new year is not Biblical, and has been added by man. The ceremony of dipping apples into honey is sweet, but does not have much Biblical support.

It's therefore vital that we search the Scriptures diligently, to find a valid, Biblical meaning that we can hold onto.

The Scriptures that we've read already point to the blowing of the shofar¹ ... more importantly, we see that we are to "hear" the sound of the shofar!!

Two other passages that confirm this concept are:

Joel 2:1 "Blow the shofar in Tziyon! Sound an alarm on my holy mountain!" Let all living in the land tremble, for the Day of ADONAI is coming! It's upon us!

Zephaniah 1:14-16 "The great Day of ADONAI is near, near and coming very quickly; Hear the sound of the Day of ADONAI! When it's here, even a warrior will cry bitterly. 15 That Day is a Day of fury, a Day of trouble and distress, a Day of waste and desolation, a Day of darkness and gloom, a Day of clouds and thick fog, 16 a Day of the shofar and battle-cry against the fortified cities and against the high towers [on the city walls

This is an Appointed Time.

It's the only Feast on a New Moon.

Psalm 81:1-3 "For the Leader. On the gittit. By Asaf: Sing for joy to GOD our strength! Shout to the GOD of Ya'akov! 2 Start the music! Beat the drum! Play the sweet lyre and the lute! 3 Sound the shofar at Rosh-Hodesh and at full moon for the pilgrim feast,

Most people start off by assuming that it's the *shofar* ... but in fact the sound can come from the trumpet (Numbers 10:5) or a shofar (Leviticus 25:9):

Numbers 10:5 "When you sound an alarm, the camps to the east will commence traveling.

Leviticus 25:9 "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;

I have a preference for the sound of the *ram* shofar on this day, and it probably has got to do with the story where Isaac is offered as a sacrifice, and GOD provides a ram.

The ram waiting to be an offering — its horn caught in the bushes — speaks volumes of the role of the shofar. The rabbis say that when you hear the sound of the shofar, you are listening to the sound of the BLOOD ... there are many interpretations as to what exactly is meant by this today, most of which are all valid. The greater majority of these have some connection/meaning to end-time prophecy and the Day of Judgment.

¹ For more info on the shofar, please see: <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=155> and <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=266>

I want to suggest that at this Feast, we should focus on the **shofar as a Reminder of GOD's Divine Faithfulness** ... and that we choose to make some prophetic statement or action that signifies that we **REMEMBER**.

Let's turn to Leviticus:

Leviticus 23:24 *Tell the people of Isra'el, 'In the seventh month, the first of the month is to be for you a day of complete rest for remembering, a holy convocation announced with blasts on the shofar.*

The English translation reads "a memorial blast of trumpets". The Hebrew is "**ziccaron teruah**" and can literally be translated as "**a remembrance blast**".

The key to unlocking the meaning of this Feast Day is found in the "blowing of the shofar". The sound of the shofar does two things:

1. It **reminds the people** that we should **walk** before GOD **with a pure heart**. Not only this, but our hearts, soul, mouth, ears, must be circumcised so that we put our undivided attention on the **Will of GOD**.

If there is any unholy/unclean parts to our walk before GOD, then we need to repent, and make restitution.

What should the sound remind us of?



If we search back in the WORD, for the places where we will find a reference to the word SHOFAR, we will come to the following two passages:

Exodus 19:16-19 *On the morning of the third day, there was thunder, lightning and a thick cloud on the mountain. **Then a shofar blast sounded so loudly that all the people in the camp trembled.** 17 Moshe brought the people out of the camp to meet GOD; they stood near the base of the mountain. 18 Mount Sinai was enveloped in smoke, because ADONAI descended onto it in fire, its smoke went up like the smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently. 19 **As the sound of the shofar grew louder and louder,** Moshe spoke; and GOD answered him with a voice.*

Exodus 20:18 *All the people experienced the thunder, the lightning, the sound of the shofar, and the mountain smoking. When the people saw it, they trembled. Standing at a distance,*

In both passages we hear the sound of the blast, at the moment the Commandments (Marriage Proposal) is made.

In the same way that the children of Israel had no idea what was going to happen, so too today, do you and I stand here without knowing what is going to happen in the year that lies ahead.

Yet, when we hear the sound, it reminds us, almost as if the sound wraps around you in the form of a wedding ring, that we are set-apart for a Bridegroom that is waiting.

Is your robe of righteousness pure and spotless?

2. It reminds **GOD to remember** His people.

In Numbers we read “sound the alarm that you may be remembered ...”

Numbers 10:9-10 *When you go to war in your land against an adversary who is oppressing you, you are to sound an alarm with the trumpets; **then you will be remembered** before ADONAI your GOD, and you will be saved from your enemies. 10 "Also on your days of rejoicing, at your designated times and on Rosh-Hodesh, you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; these will be your reminder before your GOD. I am ADONAI your GOD."*

This lets us know that we can call on GOD to be compassionate on His children.

*Man must **PREPARE** his heart ...*

We live in trying times — economic hardship, political unrest, a culture of demand/rights, and so forth. Within our own families, we have the normal sibling differences.

It seems to me that the month of **ELUL**² (the traditional Jewish name for the sixth month) is used to prepare ourselves for this day.

(1) You see — the thoughts, fears, and concerns that are plaguing me daily will be impacting my emotions and my heart.

I will have experienced stress, and my mind/heart will be working overtime, to solve all of the outstanding problems!! I need to still my mind, and meditate on GOD's WORD of rest/shalom ... UNTIL my heart is at rest.

(2) At the same time, I must train my thought patterns to speak words of **LIFE** — words of **HOPE** and words of **TRUST**.

² For more info, check out the New Moon prayer for ELUL: <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=162>

It's only when there is REST AND INTIMACY on the inside of my tabernacle, AND there are words of LOVE and HOPE on the outside of my tabernacle, that the divine spark of SHALOM (peace) will ignite my spirit to remember GOD's Faithfulness.

We need a spark of the Divine to hear the "blowing" of the Feast.

You see, the sound of the shofar may be long, piercing, pronounced, intermittent ... but the Voice of GOD that is hidden away inside, will be a small, still sound.

****NUGGET!**** You need to listen carefully!!

What is Yahweh (GOD the FATHER) saying to you, for this time ahead?

For me, the two *parasha* (weekly portions from the Torah, the First Five Books of the Bible) that form an envelope around the Feast of Teruah, is made up on one side by the BIRTH of Isaac ... and on the other, by the BINDING of Isaac. These two *parasha* speak to me at this time. I'd like to focus on **Genesis 21:1-22:24**.

It starts with these words: ***"And Adonai remembered Sarah ..."***

Sarah is barren. Sarah is old. When the angels speak, she laughs. The sound of blowing had taken place ... and Sarah had missed it.



****NUGGET!**** But GOD still wanted to bless her, because her time was on hand ... and because Abraham had walked in righteousness with the angels.

The voice of GOD is a still small one ... listen carefully!!

Isaac (whose name means laughter) is born ... and the story ends where Adonai comes to test Abraham. GOD says ***"PLEASE³ take your son, the one you love ... and offer him"***.

³ This passage is not translated fully — there is a little Hebrew word in the passage, which means *"please"*. YHVH was not commanding Abraham to offer Isaac, but requesting this of him ... encourage you to do further study on this.

The sound of blowing had taken place ... and Abraham had heard the Voice.

He had answered ... "Here am I!"

****NUGGET!**** But then we see something that has puzzled the scholars for years. Abraham's sudden silence ... after he hears what he must do, he says nothing.

WHY?!

In times before, he had bargained with GOD ... pleaded for others. Now silence.

Question:

- Did Abraham start to think back over the years, to the Covenantal episode where the animals were cut up, and where the Flame of GOD had walked in between, while he slept?
- Or did he think of all the times when GOD had delivered him — from kings, war, and so on.
- Or the times when GOD had delivered Sarah from the foreign kings?
- Or from his meeting with Melchizedek?

Was he remembering GOD's Faithfulness?

We are all tested from time to time ... those who have committed to walk in the footsteps of Abraham.

How would WE deal with such a "sound of blowing" in our lives?

Maybe a clue is found in these words. Abraham and Isaac are on the way to the "mountain" and we are told — "and he saw the place from afar" — which in Hebrew is "**va'ya'ar et ha'makom mei'rachok**".

The rabbis associate "Ha'Makom" (written with like this, with capitals) as meaning *GOD Himself*. And so, we could say, Abraham saw "GOD" from afar ...

You and I are still on that path to know GOD as **Friend** ... so we have to follow the pathway defined for us by HANNAH.

- We struggle,
 - We pray,

- We petition,
 - We plead,
 - We argue for justice,
 - We turn to GOD and make a proclamation ...

And when we have taken captive all of our “old man” ... we can turn and say:

“We chose to make peace and EMBRACE that which GOD has for us”

One last thought at this Feast of blowing ... in the middle of these two stories, Hagar and Ismael are sent away. Much can be said about this unique piece of the puzzle. All I want to observe is this ...

It seems to me appropriate that we have to identify all of the “old-man” ideas that we birthed during this past year ... and dispatch them into the wilderness.

You are called to be a holy priest, set-apart (pure/clean), and called to serve in the Tabernacle made of Living-Stones during the next few days ... you can't take the unclean in with you ... or else you will be consumed.

Let's CELEBRATE!!



The Israelites had been eating manna for about three weeks when they walked away from Mount Sinai. They were getting used to a “new” food. The Scriptures describe this food as “wafers dipped in honey”.

Why don't you take a challah (traditional Jewish braided-bread), dip it in honey, and taste how GOOD YHVH is for us!!

Exodus 16:31 *The people called the food manna. It was like coriander seed, white; and it tasted like honey cakes.*

Shalom!