



The Yemenite Shofar

# "The Shofar"



The Ram's Horn

~The YHWH (LORD) Visits Sinai~

*Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. [EXODUS 19:18-20] [NAS]*

~The Shofar~

**S**hofar is the Hebrew word for our word trumpet. So when you see or read the word trumpet in the Bible then you can substitute the word Shofar for it. Such as in Exodus 19:19; *"When the sound of the trumpet (Shofar) grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder."* [EXODUS 19:19]

**The Shofar:** a Hebrew word which according to Strong's Dictionary, #07782, is translated **trumpet** in 68 of the 72 times it appears in the Old Testament

[NAS] Shofar is mentioned over 100 times in the Bible, as either a ram's horn or trumpet.

The shofar is used many times in the Bible, from when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to the blowing of the shofar in announcing the return of the LORD.

*When the sound of the trumpet (shofar) grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. [NAS] [Exodus 19:19]*

Notice above where the shofar sounded long and waxed louder and louder. It is natural when you blow the shofar that the person blowing the shofar to loose their wind and the sound of the shofar to get lower, but not in this



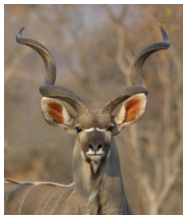
case, the shofar "waxed louder and louder.

Corinthians tells us about this last trump or shofar sounding. It says;

*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the (shofar) trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [1 CORINTHIANS 15:52] [KJV]*

## ~Kinds of Shofars~

Basically there are two kinds of shofars, the small one is the ram's horn, and the



larger one is the Yemenite shofar which comes from the



African antelope called



the Kudu (proclaimed coo-doo). The shofar was mostly

used to get the people's attention and to make an announcement or proclamation that would follow after the blowing of the shofar.



The horn of a goat, sheep or antelope is usually used, but never a horn from a cow or steer, according to Jewish tradition. It reminds the LORD (YHWH) of the golden calf of Mt. Sinai in Exodus 32.

## ~How about that Smell~

Shofars have a strong, distinctive odor that comes from the animal that they are acquired from, usually a goat, ram, or antelope. So the shofar takes on the smell of the animal that it comes from. It is hard to get all the smell out of the horn. The shofar is made from animals and therefore all natural, nothing made by man, all made by the hands of God.



Some prefer to leave the smell in the horn. The smell reminds us of our sins and that God (Elohim) in His loving kindness and forgiveness graciously loves us all and forgives us all of our sins. No matter how good we think we are, our righteousness is like filthy rags to the Lord, as recorded in Isaiah. *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."* [ISAIAH 64:6] [KJV]

## ~Life's shofar experiences~

Let me tell you about a couple of experiences we had before we knew anything about the Shofar. Several years ago we were at a Messianic retreat and the preacher at the



platform asked that all that had a Shofar to come forward. We thought that they were talking about a chauffeur; as in a driver that would drive you to the retreat. We finally got the message when everyone with a shofar went up front

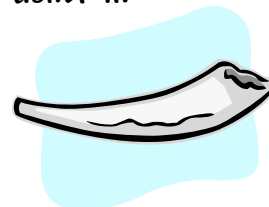
and blew their shofars.

Another time a few years later we were at a church we had never attended before. We were sitting in the back and when Martha looked up at the platform there were several shofars laying on the stage upfront. Martha said, "Are those snakes?" We didn't know whether we should hang around or head for the back door. (If they didn't have one, I was wondering where they would want one) But after a closer look we saw there were several shofars lying together. By looking at the shofar I have you may be able to see where it resembles a snake if looking at it from a distance or if you didn't know what a shofar was.

### ~Shofar Biblical Uses~

The blowing of the ram's horn (shofar in Hebrew) is used to usher in the

- ➔ Biblical festivals of Israel
- ➔ The Sabbath
- ➔ Inspire people to repent and amend their lives



The Sounding of the Shofar

- ➔ Symbolizes freedom and liberty
- ➔ Proclaims the anniversary of the creation of the world
- ➔ Is a reminder of the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai
- ➔ And is a sound that is guaranteed to confuse and chase away Satan.



### ~The Trumpet (Shofar) Sounded~



*"When the sound of the trumpet (Shofar) grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and Elohim (God) answered him with thunder."* (Exodus 19:19)

This is the first time the Bible records the sounding of the trumpet or shofar. The Shofar was so loud that the people could see the sound as well as the smoke and lighting. (EXODUS 20:18)

The shofar was used many ways in Biblical Times. Today we go by watches, calendars, bells and alarms. In Biblical Days the trumpet (Shofar) was used to assemble the people, announce the new moon and proclaim the anointing of a new King. Even today, I understand in modern Israel that the shofar is blown when swearing in the president of the state.

The YHWH (LORD) got the Israelite people's attention by the loud sound of the shofar (trumpet). *"So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder*

*and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet (shofar) sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.”*

[EXODUS 19:16-17] [NAS] Here the Lord (YHWH) is, assembling His people together by the sound of the shofar.

### ~Two Great Shofar (Trumpet) Days~

According to many Bible scholars, there are two main trumps in the Word of YHWH, one toward the beginning and the other at the Lord’s return. The first trumpet (shofar) has been and the second trumpet (shofar) is to be. The first was when YHWH gave the Ten Commandments to Moses and the Israelites. It’s recorded in Exodus 19:19; let us look at it. *“When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder.”* Do you think this would get your attention today?

The second or last trump is recorded in the New Testament, Matthew 24:29-31, let us see what (Yeshua) Jesus himself said, *“But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. “And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET (SHOFAR) and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*



[MATTHEW 24:29-31] [NAS] We see in the previous verses that the Lord called his people



together and gave them the Ten Commandments (what we are to live by) and He will call HIS people together at the great sound of the trumpet (shofar). It will be the end of this world as we know it today and “the elect” (those that keep the Commandments of YHWH) will live with Jesus forever; “Folks that is

forever, eternity.” (Also see what the apostle Paul had to say about these great days of the trumpets, (shofar) 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:52 and 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16-17)

1 Thessalonians 4:16 ESV (16) For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

## ~Some instances of the Biblical Sounding of the Shofar~

### ~At Mount Sinai~

*And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.*

[EXODUS 19:16] [KJV]

*And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. [EXODUS 19:19] [KJV]*

*And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. [EXODUS 20:18] [KJV]*

### ~On the Sabbaths~



*Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. [PSALMS 81:3] [KJV]*

*Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.*

[LEVITICUS 23:24] [KJV]

*Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. [LEVITICUS 25:9] [KJV]*

### ~At the Destruction of Jericho~

*And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven (shofars) trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the (shofars) trumpets. [JOSHUA 6:4] [KJV]*

*And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the (shofar) ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the (shofar) trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. [JOS 6:5] [KJV]*

*So the people shouted when the priests blew with the (shofars) trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the (shofar) trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. [JOSHUA 6:20] [KJV]*

The shofar is not something you would normally think about when going to war. But Joshua followed God's instructions and captured the city of Jericho by the sound of the shofars and a great shout. You can see that the shofar played a great part in the destruction of the walls of Jericho.

### ~Victory in Warfare~

*And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. [JUDGES 7:16] [KJV]*



*And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.*  
[JUDGES 7:20] [KJV]

### ~The Return of the Ark~

*So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.* [2 SAMUEL 6:15] [KJV]

### ~The Anointing of King Solomon~

*And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there King over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save King Solomon.*  
[1 KINGS 1:34] [KJV]

### ~The Dedication of the Temple~



*It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;*  
[2 CHRONICLES 5:13] [KJV]

### ~Rebuilding of Jerusalem~

*For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.* [NEH 4:18] [KJV]  
*In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.* [NEHEMIAH 4:20] [KJV]

### ~A Watchmen's Responsibilities~

*If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;* [EZEKIEL 33:3] [KJV]  
*Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.*  
[EZEKIEL 33:4] [KJV]



*He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.* [EZEKIEL 33:5] [KJV]  
*But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.* [EZEKIEL 33:6] [KJV]

### ~Warning Concerning Sin~

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. [ISA 58:1] [KJV]

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; [JOEL 2:1] [KJV]

### ~The Lord Shall Blow the Shofar~

*And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. [ZECHARIAH 9:14] [KJV]*

*All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye. [ISAIAH 18:3] [KJV]*

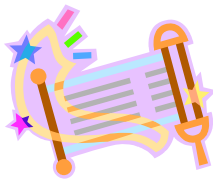
*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem. [ISAIAH 27:13] [KJV]*

### ~Many will not Listen~

*Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. [JEREMIAH 6:17] [KJV]*

### ~The New Testament~

*And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. [MATTHEW 24:31] [KJV]*



For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? [KJV] [1 CORINTHIANS 14:8]

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. [KJV] [1 CORINTHIANS 15:52]

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: [KJV] [1 THESSALONIANS 4:16]

And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: [KJV] [HEBREWS 12:19]

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, [KJV] [REVELATION 1:10]

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. [KJV] [REVELATION 4:1]

### ~Referring to the Great Trump~

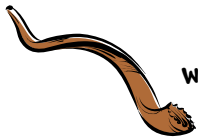


(Matthew 24:29 ESV) "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

(Matthew 24:30 ESV) Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

(Matthew 24:31 ESV) And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

### ~The Shofar in Revelations~



The sounding of the shofar has a rich biblical and Jewish typology which points to the human need to prepare for the final judgment. In Revelations when opening the seventh seal there were seven angels before God with seven shofars that were given them.

This is not a study of Revelations, as that would be beyond the scope of this message. It's not an interpretation of Revelations as that is beyond my understanding. It's not what has happened or what will happen in the future. This message only refers to the sounding and blowing of the shofar as related in Revelations. I'm only referring and writing about the opening of the seventh seal which has seven shofars that are blown before the destruction that is recorded in Revelations. These events are succeeding the blowing of the seven shofars and are all grouped together in the opening of the seventh seal.

The opening of this seventh seal is followed by a series of events, seven also in number, which succeed each other, represented by new symbols - the blowing of these seven successive shofars, six for destruction and the seventh is Jesus' Return.

### ~Opening of the Seventh Seal - The (Shofars) Trumpets~

(Revelation 8:1 ESV) When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

(Revelation 8:2 ESV) Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets (shofars) were given to them.



**(Revelation 8:6 ESV)** Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets (shofars) prepared to blow them.

**1** **(Revelation 8:7 ESV)** The first angel blew his trumpet (shofar), and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

"One-third of the earth, trees and all the green grass was burned up at the sounding of the first shofar."

**2** **(Revelation 8:8 ESV)** The second angel blew his trumpet (shofar), and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

**(Revelation 8:9 ESV)** A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

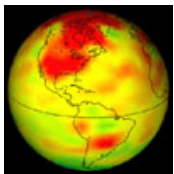
"One-third of the sea became blood, one third of the sea creatures dies, and a third of the ships destroyed at the sound of the second shofar."

**(Revelation 8:10 ESV)** The third angel blew his trumpet (shofar), and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.



**3** Read verse 11 also. A third of the rivers and waters were made wormwood or bitter and many men died due to the bitterness of the waters. All this happens when the third shofar is blown."

**(Revelation 8:12 ESV)** The fourth angel blew his trumpet (shofar), and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.



**4** "One-third of the moon, stars and sun was struck and a third of the day and night would not shine when the fourth shofar blows."

Then there is a pause in time - **(Revelation 8:13 ESV)** Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

**(Revelation 9:1 ESV)** And the fifth angel blew his trumpet (shofar), and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. Also read Verses 2-12. "The sun and air were darkened by the furnace smoke from the bottomless pit when the door was opened. Out of the smoke came locusts that tormented souls for five months unless the seal of God was on their forehead. All of this happens when the fifth shofar is blown."

6

*(Revelation 9:13 ESV) Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet (shofar), and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God,*

Also read verses 14-20. "One-third of mankind was killed by the plagues of fire, smoke and brimstone. The rest of mankind will not repent of the works of their hands. All this destruction and death when the sixth shofar is blown."

7

*(Revelation 11:15 ESV) Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet (shofar), and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."*

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our (YHWH) Lord and His Christ and they will reign forever and ever. The temple of God which is in heaven was opened. Praise the (YHWH) Lord for that seventh and last sounding of the shofar for we will live forever. Amen and Amen.

Yes, we have the Blessed Hope of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When Christ returns, He will be returning in all of His Glory and will have our rewards according to what we have done. It's all about Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He was there in the beginning and He will be there at the end when He sets up His eternal Kingdom with us. Let the one who is thirsty make the choice to have eternal life. Folks we have that choice, but we need to make it now, not later. Come to Him now so you can do the work of the one that sent you. Now let us look at the last couple of chapters in Revelations for God's promise.

*Revelation 21:1-7 ESV Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (6) And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. (7) The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*

Revelation 22:16-21 ESV (16) *"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."*  
 (17) *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (18) I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, (19) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. (20) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (21) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*

The shofar is even in our songs, the hymn, "Stand Up For Jesus," in verse two it reads; "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus, the (Shofar) Trumpet Call Obey."

And in "The King is Coming," Oh the King is coming, The King is coming, I just heard the (shofar) trumpet sounding. And now his face I see. Oh, the King is coming, The King is coming. PRAISE GOD, He's coming for me!

### "Welcome Back"

A farmer had an old hound dog that he cherished. One day the dog disappeared, and several weeks passed without his return. In spite of this, the farmer continued to set out fresh food for the dog every day.

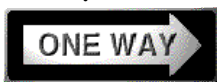
Finally, in curiosity, one of the farmer's neighbors asked why he continued to set out food for the dog when he obviously was not returning.

"He will be back," replied the farmer. "Because he knows I am here waiting for him. And when he gets here I want him to know he is welcome back."

Today we wait for Christ's return with great expectancy. We do not know the day nor the hour of His return, but we are confident that He *is* coming back.

As we wait for Christ's return, we prepare ourselves each day to meet Him.

The speaker the other week asked you three questions, today I'm asking you only one. The important question today is; are you going to be ready or are you now ready when that last shofar is blown? Nothing else will matter in the end.




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I have gotten some information for this article from a number of different sources; internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not keep up with this information in most cases in order to give proper credit. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things.



May 2007

*Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

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