

*Why Shofars Wail in
Scripture and Today*

LARGE PRINT

—The Exciting Stories and Miracles!

By

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Chapter 3—The Message

Prayer, diligence, and a little knowledge can help to coax pleasing sounds from a shofar. Shofie sounded best when aimed about two-thirds of the way toward heaven. An internet search revealed that pursing the lips to pronounce the letter “P” before blowing a shofar could help to produce suitable sounds.

During its old life, a horn had enforced its former head’s will and battled opponents. However, belonging to a new master involved separation and cleansing, which changed everything and made all things new.

A cleansed, seasoned and yielded shofar could become a choice tool in its new master's hand. His life-breath and message of hope could flow powerfully through His new creation and stir hearers to action.

A shofar could issue a call to worship, declare God's Presence, and summon to battle. It could sound an alarm, announce a new king, and proclaim a fast, a feast, or freedom. The wordless commands or warnings sent invitations to come up higher and closer to God.

Blasts differed in sound but were all of the same length or duration. A very long single blast was equal in length to various combinations of the others.

Blood

The shofar was comprised of keratin, which was similar to fingernails or animal hooves. Blood, however, circulated at the large end where a horn at-

tached to the head. Thus, a soul-piercing shofar cry—through the blood—may bring to mind God’s calls to humankind down through the ages. His calls began in Genesis 3:9, when He called to Adam and said, “Where art thou?” (KJV). God knew where Adam and Eve were but wanted them to acknowledge the naked mess into which they had gotten themselves.

God lovingly draped Adam and Eve with new garments that He had made of animal skins (which involved bloodshed) and then unveiled His rescue plan in Genesis 3:15. He still loved them, and wanted them near; yet, sin as a wedge had driven them apart. God had a plan and made a way to lead them back home and back into His loving arms.

His plan would unfold through the **woman’s seed**. Even though Eve had sinned, and Adam had willingly participated in it with her; Yeshua, the Messiah—

God's Antidote for sin's curse—would come from **Eve's** offspring.

This time, God would not **create**, but would **Father** the only Son that He would ever **generate**—with human flesh. The Holy Spirit (Ruach Kodesh) with God's DNA would cause Mary (Eve's seed) to become pregnant so that God's only **begotten** Son could be born with God's DNA in human flesh.

Scarlet Thread

That promise became the **scarlet thread** of hope that wove throughout the Scriptures. It pointed by faith to Jesus Christ (Yeshua)—the Lamb of God. He would shed His Holy Blood on Mount Calvary.

By Genesis 4:1–5, sin had manifested and spread as a deadly disease in Adam and Eve's family. Cain knew all about God's blood sacrifice requirement; however, he ignored God's instructions and proudly

spread out his gorgeous produce before Him. Cain's bright cherries, pomegranates, beets, watermelons, and pumpkins, or whatever, were beautiful—but bloodless. That was not his most brilliant idea. God accepted Abel's obedient offering, (which God's fire from on high must have consumed). Cain was furious because the LORD had rejected his offering of imperfectly good works that shrunk and withered on God's altar when no fire fell.

Burning with resentment, Cain's sin-twisted mind may have reasoned that if God wanted a blood sacrifice, He could have one—with Abel's innocent blood! Blinded by jealousy and seething with resentment, Cain slaughtered his brother. He showed no remorse as Abel's blood leaked into the soil. Cain's crime that grieved his parents also divided the family. God confronted Cain and held him accountable—for murder.

And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."

—Gen. 4:10

Flashbacks

Thoughts of Eden shot through the First Humans as they stared at Abel's cold and lifeless body. They remembered when they had entertained the charming serpent in the garden and had playfully toyed with his lies, and experimented with the forbidden fruit. Sadly, during the excitement of temptation's thrill, they had forgotten God's clear warning of sin's deadly consequence.

Grieving over their godly son's death, Adam, Eve, (and Cain?) clung by faith to God's promise of the Redeemer. He would conquer the lying serpent, and crush sin's power.

The writer of **Hebrews** shows how the Old and New Testaments embrace God's promise. They give a clear picture of Christ's fulfillment, and redemption.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.

—Heb. 12:22–24 NASB

Angels would shudder when hammers pounded sharp spikes through Jesus' yielded hands and feet, and fastened Him to a God-forsaken cross. Nobody would take His life. Jesus—the Holy Lamb of God—

the Messiah—would willingly **lay down** His life when He redeemed humankind.

Mercy

God's scarlet thread of promise would come—it would be Jesus' sacred blood!—the Only acceptable sacrifice that could take away sin. His **Holy Blood** drops would hit the soil, as great boulders of mercy that would crush sin's curse, overthrow death's power, and set us free. Jesus Christ—Yeshua, the Messiah—God's only begotten Son—would (and did) rise from the dead and lives forever!

Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

—Heb. 7:25 NASB

Father God still hears Jesus' Blood that, as a Great Shofar, proclaims forgiveness from Heaven's Mercy Seat, and calls us to come up higher.

Five Shofar Blasts

There are at least five shofar blasts, maybe more.

The Tekiah sound is one long blast. In Deuteronomy 6:4–5 the tekiah's singleness, power and duration remind listeners that the LORD God is one God.

The Shevarim blast produces a wailing sound that repeats three times. The combined length of the three wails equals that of a Tekiah. Many have claimed that this sound was reminiscent of Sisera's mother sobbing when he failed to return from battle. Others have likened it to a sad heart that longs to reunite with God.

The Teruah has nine rapid short blasts in groups of three (**ta, ta, ta—ta, ta, ta—ta, ta, ta**). When combined they equal the length of the Tekiah or Shevarim. The Teruah sends an alarm or wake-up call. In Leviticus 25:9–10, it also announces God’s great Jubilee blessings and joy.

The Shevarim Teruah launches three wailing blasts that are followed by nine staccato blasts. Some have said this blast could open the heavens. (It may also open hearts to God.)

The Tekiah Gedolah, the **Great Blast** or Great Tekiah, is one very long continuous blast that sounds for as long as possible. It urges the people to rejoice, praise, and welcome the Great Creator as it announces His presence or coming.

Shofars also called to anoint a new king, to call people to repentance, to sound an alarm, or to call

troops to battle. They called to set captives free, to proclaim victory, to announce the day of Jubilee, and to announce a Sabbath or New Moon. Shofars alerted people to hear God's Word and to praise and worship their Creator.

Shofar blasts also brought big shakeups on Mount Sinai when they called God's people to hear His Word. The shofar blasts were ready to sound.

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Dr. Rocco Bruno read God's Word, declared God's promises, and prayed for revival in his hometown.