Theme 3: Shofarot

*Source Sheet by* [*Andrew Shoyer*](https://www.sefaria.org/profile/andrew-shoyer)

The third and final section that the Rabbi's added to the Rosh Hashanah Musaf Amidah is Shofarot, literally "ram's horns."  As in the other two added sections, the core of the section consists of three verses each from the Five Books of Moses, Psalms, and the Prophets.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

A.  Why did the Rabbis devote a whole section of study and prayer to the shofar?  The other two sections -- the emphasis on God's sovereignty and God's remembrance of the covenant with the Jewish people -- seem appropriate themes to emphasize as we advocate for ourselves during a time of judgment.  And certainly the shofar calls play a special part of synagogue worship during Rosh Hashanah.  But what, in selecting the following verses, were the Rabbis trying to teach us about the role of the shofar in Jewish life and thought?

B.  During this past year, what has served as a "wake-up call" for you?  What have you heard that has shaken you and changed your perspective in a fundamental way?  How do you think that "call" will carry forward during the coming year in terms of your actions and interactions with others?

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| [**Exodus 19:16**](https://www.sefaria.org/Exodus.19.16)  (16) On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the *shofar*; and all the people who were in the camp trembled. | [**שמות י״ט:ט״ז**](https://www.sefaria.org/Exodus.19.16)  (טז) וַיְהִי֩ בַיּ֨וֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁ֜י בִּֽהְיֹ֣ת הַבֹּ֗קֶר וַיְהִי֩ קֹלֹ֨ת וּבְרָקִ֜ים וְעָנָ֤ן כָּבֵד֙ עַל־הָהָ֔ר וְקֹ֥ל שֹׁפָ֖ר חָזָ֣ק מְאֹ֑ד וַיֶּחֱרַ֥ד כָּל־הָעָ֖ם אֲשֶׁ֥ר בַּֽמַּחֲנֶֽה׃ |

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| [**Exodus 19:19**](https://www.sefaria.org/Exodus.19.19)  (19) The blare of the *shofar* grew louder and louder. As Moses spoke, God answered him in thunder. | [**שמות י״ט:י״ט**](https://www.sefaria.org/Exodus.19.19)  (יט) וַיְהִי֙ ק֣וֹל הַשּׁוֹפָ֔ר הוֹלֵ֖ךְ וְחָזֵ֣ק מְאֹ֑ד מֹשֶׁ֣ה יְדַבֵּ֔ר וְהָאֱלֹהִ֖ים יַעֲנֶ֥נּוּ בְקֽוֹל׃ |

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| [**Exodus 20:15**](https://www.sefaria.org/Exodus.20.15)  (15) All the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the blare of the *shofar* and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they fell back and stood at a distance. | [**שמות כ׳:ט״ו**](https://www.sefaria.org/Exodus.20.15)  (טו) וְכָל־הָעָם֩ רֹאִ֨ים אֶת־הַקּוֹלֹ֜ת וְאֶת־הַלַּפִּידִ֗ם וְאֵת֙ ק֣וֹל הַשֹּׁפָ֔ר וְאֶת־הָהָ֖ר עָשֵׁ֑ן וַיַּ֤רְא הָעָם֙ וַיָּנֻ֔עוּ וַיַּֽעַמְד֖וּ מֵֽרָחֹֽק׃ |

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| [**Psalms 47:6**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.47.6)  (6) God ascends midst acclamation; the LORD, to the blasts of the *shofar*. | [**תהילים מ״ז:ו׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.47.6)  (ו) עָלָ֣ה אֱ֭לֹהִים בִּתְרוּעָ֑ה יְ֝הֹוָ֗ה בְּק֣וֹל שׁוֹפָֽר׃ |

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| [**Psalms 98:6**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.98.6)  (6) With trumpets and the blast of the *shofar* raise a shout before the LORD, the King. | [**תהילים צ״ח:ו׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.98.6)  (ו) בַּ֭חֲצֹ֣צְרוֹת וְק֣וֹל שׁוֹפָ֑ר הָ֝רִ֗יעוּ לִפְנֵ֤י ׀ הַמֶּ֬לֶךְ יְהוָֽה׃ |

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| [**Psalms 150:1-6**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.150.1-6)  (1) Hallelujah. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the sky, His stronghold. (2) Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him for His exceeding greatness. (3) Praise Him with the *shofar* call; praise Him with harp and lyre. (4) Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with lute and pipe. (5) Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with loud-clashing cymbals. (6) Let all that breathes praise the LORD. Hallelujah. | [**תהילים ק״נ:א׳-ו׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.150.1-6)  (א) הַ֥לְלוּ יָ֨הּ ׀ הַֽלְלוּ־אֵ֥ל בְּקָדְשׁ֑וֹ הַֽ֝לְל֗וּהוּ בִּרְקִ֥יעַ עֻזּֽוֹ׃ (ב) הַֽלְל֥וּהוּ בִגְבוּרֹתָ֑יו הַֽ֝לְל֗וּהוּ כְּרֹ֣ב גֻּדְלֽוֹ׃ (ג) הַֽ֭לְלוּהוּ בְּתֵ֣קַע שׁוֹפָ֑ר הַֽ֝לְל֗וּהוּ בְּנֵ֣בֶל וְכִנּֽוֹר׃ (ד) הַֽ֭לְלוּהוּ בְתֹ֣ף וּמָח֑וֹל הַֽ֝לְל֗וּהוּ בְּמִנִּ֥ים וְעוּגָֽב׃ (ה) הַֽלְל֥וּהוּ בְצִלְצְלֵי־שָׁ֑מַע הַֽ֝לְל֗וּהוּ בְּֽצִלְצְלֵ֥י תְרוּעָֽה׃ (ו) כֹּ֣ל הַ֭נְּשָׁמָה תְּהַלֵּ֥ל יָ֗הּ הַֽלְלוּ־יָֽהּ׃ |

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| [**Isaiah 18:3**](https://www.sefaria.org/Isaiah.18.3)  (3) [Say this:] “All you who live in the world And inhabit the earth, When a flag is raised in the hills, take note! When a *shofar* is blown, give heed!” | [**ישעיהו י״ח:ג׳**](https://www.sefaria.org/Isaiah.18.3)  (ג) כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵ֥י תֵבֵ֖ל וְשֹׁ֣כְנֵי אָ֑רֶץ כִּנְשֹׂא־נֵ֤ס הָרִים֙ תִּרְא֔וּ וְכִתְקֹ֥עַ שׁוֹפָ֖ר תִּשְׁמָֽעוּ׃ (ס) |

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| [**Isaiah 27:13**](https://www.sefaria.org/Isaiah.27.13)  (13) And in that day, a great *shofar* shall be sounded; and the strayed who are in the land of Assyria and the expelled who are in the land of Egypt shall come and worship the LORD on the holy mount, in Jerusalem. | [**ישעיהו כ״ז:י״ג**](https://www.sefaria.org/Isaiah.27.13)  (יג) וְהָיָ֣ה ׀ בַּיּ֣וֹם הַה֗וּא יִתָּקַע֮ בְּשׁוֹפָ֣ר גָּדוֹל֒ וּבָ֗אוּ הָאֹֽבְדִים֙ בְּאֶ֣רֶץ אַשּׁ֔וּר וְהַנִּדָּחִ֖ים בְּאֶ֣רֶץ מִצְרָ֑יִם וְהִשְׁתַּחֲו֧וּ לַיהוָ֛ה בְּהַ֥ר הַקֹּ֖דֶשׁ בִּירוּשָׁלִָֽם׃ |

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| [**Zechariah 9:14-15**](https://www.sefaria.org/Zechariah.9.14-15)  (14) And the LORD will manifest Himself to them, And His arrows shall flash like lightning; My Lord GOD shall sound the *shofar* And advance in a stormy tempest. (15) The LORD of Hosts will protect them: [His] slingstones shall devour and conquer; They shall drink, shall rage as with wine, And be filled [with it] like a dashing bowl, Like the corners of an altar. | [**זכריה ט׳:י״ד-ט״ו**](https://www.sefaria.org/Zechariah.9.14-15)  (יד) וַֽיהוָה֙ עֲלֵיהֶ֣ם יֵֽרָאֶ֔ה וְיָצָ֥א כַבָּרָ֖ק חִצּ֑וֹ וַֽאדֹנָ֤י יְהֹוִה֙ בַּשּׁוֹפָ֣ר יִתְקָ֔ע וְהָלַ֖ךְ בְּסַעֲר֥וֹת תֵּימָֽן׃ (טו) יְהוָ֣ה צְבָאוֹת֮ יָגֵ֣ן עֲלֵיהֶם֒ וְאָכְל֗וּ וְכָֽבְשׁוּ֙ אַבְנֵי־קֶ֔לַע וְשָׁת֥וּ הָמ֖וּ כְּמוֹ־יָ֑יִן וּמָֽלְאוּ֙ כַּמִּזְרָ֔ק כְּזָוִיּ֖וֹת מִזְבֵּֽחַ׃ |

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