



September 2012

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 16

Erev Yom Kippur
Sept. 25

Erev Sukkot
Sept. 30

High Holiday Greetings in Yeshua,



The Sound of the Trumpet

The *shofar*, the ritual trumpet of the Jewish people, has been sounded daily in synagogues around the world since August 19, 2012. This yearly ritual will continue for the entire month of *Elul*, the month of spiritual preparation before the fall feasts of the Lord. These feasts begin on the eve of September 16, 2012, with Yom Teruah (the Day of blowing of trumpets), more commonly known as *Rosh HaShanah* (the Jewish New Year). On this day, the shofar will be sounded 100 times. This special sound is considered to be a "prayer without words" by traditional Jews, a cry of the heart, the sound of repentance, and a sound that confuses and confounds *hasatan*, the adversary of God's people.

The shofar is an ancient, God-ordained instrument that is found throughout the Holy Scriptures. It is both a symbol of God's activity among His people, and a direct, concrete way in which He interacts with them. A shofar can be short, made from the horn of a ram, or long, made from the horn of a wild goat, antelope, kudu, or gazelle. *Shofarot* (plural of shofar, pronounced show-far-OAT) are curved, symbolizing submission to the will of God.

God's Voice as a Trumpet

As you read this letter, our 2012 Mercy Mission team of twenty-seven pilgrims will be sounding shofarot and explaining to Israelis that God wants to speak to them! The timing could not be more perfect, since this is the season of soul-searching in Judaism. Normally, the shofar is only blown in synagogues by men. Our little band of brave believers will be defying tradition, believing God to honor our steps of faith, as both men and women blow the shofar, sending forth the Ruach that resides in each one of them. WE are all called to be a shofar for Yeshua!

The connection between the shofar and the voice of God begins at Mount Sinai and the giving of the Torah. *"Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet (שופר, ram's horn shofar) was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled...And when the blast of the trumpet (השופר) sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice"* (Ex. 19:16, 19).

The shofar became associated from this point on with the revelation of God to mankind. God spoke. He revealed Himself. The appropriate human response is awe and reverence, which many of us have experienced when God revealed Himself to us. What about the Israelites at Mount Sinai? The Torah tells us that God's people were terrified when they heard His voice: *"Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet (שופר), and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die'"* (Ex. 20:19). There is a sacred secret within these words of Torah: When we hear God speak to us and reveal Himself to us, we do die! That is precisely His will for us: that we might die to ourselves and live in and for Him. The

Messiah Yeshua expressed this truth in John 12:24: *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."* The Apostle Paul (Rabbi Saul) said it this way: *"For you died, and your life is hidden with Messiah in God"* (Col. 3:3).

The fact that God's voice—like a shofar—was first heard at the Giving of the Torah (*Matan Torah*) is not an accident. It points us to the fact that God desires to speak to His people through His Word, which is like a shofar calling to our spirit. God reveals Himself through His Word. We hear His voice through His Word. For this reason, we had special key rings made for our Mercy Mission with scriptures in Hebrew on both sides. (These will be available for sale next month.) On the front is an illustration of a shofar and the words: *"Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet (שופר), rally to us there. Our God will fight for us"* (Neh. 4:20). On the back is 2 Samuel 22:2-4: *"The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence (hamas in Hebrew). I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies."*

The final book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation in the Brit Hadasha, contains two powerful verses connecting the shofar with the voice of God. They are part of the vision that the Apostle John had on the island of Patmos where he was exiled because of his faith in the Messiah Yeshua. *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last'..."* (Rev. 1:10). This is Yeshua speaking, with His voice being likened to a shofar. In Rev. 4:1, John takes us into the throne room of heaven where we hear God speak: *"And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.'"*

God's voice, as a shofar, is still calling His children to come up higher. It is a call to arise. It is a call to hear (*shema*), and obey. It is also a call to embrace truth, regardless of the cost.

The Trumpet of Warning

Yeshua said, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me"* (Jn. 10:27). We hear God's voice this month calling us to focus on the shofar as a sound of WARNING. Consider the following verses: *"When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, there you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies"* (Num. 10:9). Are you aware that we are at war? Everything we stand for as Bible believers is either challenged, mocked, ignored, or denied. There is a fierce spiritual battle raging! Don't assume that you can enter a movie theatre anymore without praying first. The devil has come out of hiding. We need to lift up our voices for truth and claim the promises of God. God will hear, and He will save us from our enemies.

"For My people are foolish. They have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." "Thus says the LORD: Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet! (שופר)' But they said, 'We will not listen.' Therefore hear, you nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people—the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not heeded My words nor My law, but rejected it" (Jer. 4:22; 6:16-19). Does this describe our country and our world today? There is no rest, nor peace, because we have forsaken the "old paths," our Judeo-Christian roots, and the Holy Scriptures as our foundation. Our only hope is to cry to God for mercy and 1) Pray for godly leaders to be raised up to turn our country back to Him, 2) Win souls, one at a time, who find the "Good Way," 3) Wage spiritual warfare against the spirits of rebellion, greed, lust, and fantasy that have taken captive this internet generation, and 4) seek to comfort God's heart which has been so wounded by the creation He longs to bless.

"And the word of the LORD came to me saying, 'Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them, 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet (שופר) and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head... But he who takes warning will save his life.' " (Ezek. 33:1-5)

We feel a responsibility to our Jewish Jewels family, and all those who read this newsletter, to tell you that it is time to seek the Lord and let Him into all areas of your life. Nothing is hidden from the Lord. The standards of God's words are still valid and in force in His kingdom. Lying is still wrong. So is cheating. Fornication and adultery are still sins, with serious consequences. Our hearts hurt recently as a believer whom we nurtured, and believed for a great calling and destiny among our people, confessed to us that he is divorcing his wife (and incidentally has found someone who understands him and makes him feel good). He justifies his behavior by saying, "God knows my heart. He knows that I love Him." But God says *"If you love me, keep my commandments."* God loves homosexuals, but you cannot be a homosexual and a follower of Yeshua at the same time. Why? It contradicts the Bible, God's Word (1 Cor. 6:9-10). Abortion is murder. Why? Because God is the One who gives life, and He has said that He knows each baby as he or she is being formed in the womb (Ps. 139:16).

Deceiving spirits are running rampant throughout the Body of Messiah. If you are married, God wants you to stay married to the person with whom you made a holy covenant. This can be really difficult, and only possible as we die to the flesh, and to our own desires and pleasures. (This does not mean that a woman should stay in a physically abusive situation.) Is there such a thing as suffering according to the will of God? Yes. Yeshua is our example. But suffering was not the final result. Resurrection followed suffering. God always moves from darkness to light, from tragedy to triumph. Trust Him. Obey Him. Love Him. Die to self. Sacrifice. Give. Hope. *"...with God all things are possible"* (Matt. 19:26).

The Trumpet of Truth

One final warning, a shofar sound from heaven, has to do with truth. There is a battle going on today between truth and falsehood. Lies seem to be winning, if we judge by the secular media. We, however, are people of truth. Our Messiah said of Himself: *"...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (Jn. 14:6). Speaking the truth is not always comfortable, but necessary nonetheless. Yeshua's Spirit is leading us this month to set the shofar to our mouth (Hosea 8:1) and quote verse 7 of that chapter: *"They set up kings, but not by (of) Me..."* We, as a people, elected the president (king) of our country. We, personally, did not vote for Barack Obama because we detected a lying spirit operating when he spoke. This spirit has shown itself over and over throughout our president's term of office. It particularly manifests when the president speaks about Islam and Israel. For example, in our president's 2009 speech in Cairo, Egypt, he is quoted as saying, "Throughout history, Islam has demonstrated through words and deeds the possibilities of religious tolerance and racial equality." This is not true. According to the Koran, Islam's holy book, all pagans, both Jews and Christians, must either convert or die. Muslims are killed if they convert to another faith. Women are defenseless and beaten at whim. The Koran calls Jews descendants of monkeys and pigs. When our president said, "I consider it part of my responsibility as President of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam..." we wonder where his loyalties lie...

Our president is no friend to Israel. We marvel at the fact that our Jewish neighbors, especially the elderly, appear to be blind to this fact. When President Obama said in Cairo that it is undeniable that the Palestinian people have suffered in pursuit of a homeland, enduring the pain of dislocation for more than 60 years, he leads people to believe that the Israelis are solely responsible for keeping the Palestinians in their deplorable state. The truth is that the Arab nations rejected the creation of a

Palestinian State alongside a Jewish State when it was offered to them in 1937, 1948 and 2000. In 1948, after the offer of a state, they attacked the new-born state of Israel. The oil-rich, vast Muslim Arab countries surrounding Israel could have easily absorbed the Palestinians in 1948 and helped them start a new life, but they chose not to. Israel became the "bad guy." Do you see the work of hasatan, the accuser, here?

Our president is trying to force Israel to divide God's land. Consider what happened when Israel withdrew from Gaza: It became a terrorist base against Israel. On our last trip to Israel in 2010, we had a mercy mission for traumatized children who live in S'derot, an Israeli town bordering Gaza. Most suffer from psychological problems (PTSD) due to living with the constant reality of rockets being launched at their homes and schools. Surely our president knows that the Palestinians do not want peace, or a homeland alongside Israel. Their charter makes it clear that their goal is the destruction of the Jewish State, replacing it with a Palestinian State. Our president has never called on Arabs to accept Israel as a Jewish State. B. Netanyahu expressed the truth about the 60 year conflict in this way: "The root of the conflict has been, and remains, the refusal to recognize the right of the Jewish People to its own State in its historical homeland."

Elections in the USA are fast approaching. Who will be our next president (king)? We encourage you all to vote! It is a right and a privilege. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. It may be a case of choosing the lesser evil. Pray for the salvation of whoever becomes our next president! Pray for a president that will not force Israel to divide God's land, lest we come under the judgment of God (Joel 3:1-2). Also pray for the Body of Messiah to embrace the truth concerning Israel. God has not "replaced" His ancient people with the Church. Rather, the Church has been grafted into Israel. The Messiah is Jewish. The roots of our faith are Jewish. There is no room for anti-Semitism in the Kingdom of God!

Please pray that we "finish strong" on our 2012 Mercy Mission. We also covet your prayers for the guidance of the Ruach HaKodesh as we stay on for five additional days to be a shofar for Yeshua in God's Land. Especially pray for anointing and favor when we meet with the ultra-Orthodox.

May you hear His voice, clearly, as never before!

Love in Yeshua, *Mel & Jamie*

*P.S. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A MESSIANIC CALENDAR FOR 5773. (2 CHOICES)
P.S. THE SHOFAR BOOKLET IS NEW. ENJOY THE TEACHING!*

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - September 2012

LOCAL TV STATIONS

AIRTIME:	STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:
TUE 6:00 PM	AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4
MON 10:00 PM	FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV 22
THU 11:30 AM	FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45
SUN 1:30 PM	FL	Tallahassee	WVUP TV 45
SAT 10:30 PM	FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61
SUN 2:30 PM	GA	Columbus	WYBU TV 16
SUN 1:30 PM	IA	Dubuque	KFXB TV 40
SUN 1:30 PM	MO	New Bloomfield	KNLJ TV 25
SUN 4:00 PM	NJ/NY	NYC/New Jersey	WMBC TV 63

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SATELLITE NETWORKS (EST)

DirecTV

SAT 2:30 PM Ch. 373 - WORD Network
 SUN 4:00 PM Ch. 93 or 900 - WMBC
 MON 8:30 PM Ch. 376 - CTN (Christian Television Network)

Dish Network

MON 8:30 PM Ch. 376 - CTN (Christian Television Network)



CABLE NETWORKS (EST)

AT&T U-Verse

SAT 2:30 PM Ch. 575 - WORD Network

Comcast Cable

SAT 2:30 PM Ch. 486 - WORD Network

Time Warner Cable

SAT 2:30 PM Ch. 386 - WORD Network

For other cable networks check local listings....