**Notes for Beth Simcha’s Rosh haShanah Service 9/24/22**

**Sounding of the Shofar: Wesley Trueblood, Elder**

**Shofar Calls:**

**Randy Shapiro, Elder Emeritus**

Beloved, coming up later this weekend begin the Fall High Holidays. These may present opportunities to witness to your non-believing Jewish friends, as well as celebrate the promises God has made to Israel. Starting at sundown on Sunday the 25th of September, 2022, our Jewish people will celebrate Yom T’ruah/Rosh haShanah (the Jewish New Year, which Leviticus 23:24 instructs us to be remembered with the blowing of shofarim/trumpets.) Then on Next Shabbat, Oct 1st, we have our celebration of Yom Kippur, the Solemn Day of Atonement. (Which formally hits Tuesday at sundown on October 4, 2022.). We hope that you all make this as a special time to pray for our normative Jewish communities and enjoy the sweetness of the rest of these Fall Feast/ Jewish Holy Days.

The ritual most frequently associated with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year (in most English translations of the Bible called the Feast of Trumpets), is the sounding of the shofar (ram’s horn) in the synagogue.

Biblically, the holiday is simply called Yom T’ruah, a day of blowing. However, it means more than simply “blowing” a trumpet or ram’s horn.

There are 4 basic shofar calls that are sounded in the synagogue during a Rosh Hashanah service.

1. The first is the simple t’kiyah, one long, sustained blast. In ancient Israel, the t’kiyah was a reassuring sound that symbolized joy and contentment.
2. The second shofar call sounded on the shofar consists of three successive blasts called shevarim. In ancient times shevarim signaled some significant event.
3. The third shofar call, however—the one mentioned in the Bible in reference to the Yom Teruah/ Feast of Trumpets—is the sound of alarm. It consists of nine rapid bursts on the shofar, referred to as t’ruah. blown in quick succession and actually considered one blast. Besides alarm, this blast symbolizes sobbing and sorrow.
4. The fourth type of blast is known as the tekiah gedolah, which means “the great tekiah” (or “the last trump.” ) It is a very long, continuous sound. And as Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum teaches in his book “The Feasts and Fasts of Israel”, this final blast symbolizes the hope of redemption. Amen!

**The Brachot: The Blessings**

During Rosh Hashanah, several blessings are pronounced, two of which are related to the blowing of the shofar. The first blessing is for the ram’s horn and pertains to the mitzvah to hear its sound. It says:

**“Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha’olam asher kidshanu b’mitzvotav v’tzivanu lishmoa kol shofar”** [Blessed are You, Adonai our God, King of the Universe, Who gives us commandments (Messianic: “and has sanctified us by the blood of Messiah”) and calls us to hear the voice of the shofar].

The second blessing is over the ram’s horn and is the traditional blessing said to celebrate a special occasion:

**“Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha’olam, Shehecheyanu, v’kiyemanu, v’higiyanu lazman hazeh”** [Blessed are You, Adonai our God, King of the Universe, Who has kept us alive/sustained us and helped us to reach this moment].

**TEKIAH SHEVARIM-TERUAH TEKIAH**

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**TEKIAH TERUAH TEKIAH**

**TEKIAH TERUAH TEKIAH**

**TEKIAH TERUAH TEKIAH-GEDOLAH!**