

*WORDS OF*  
**JOY**

*Jeremiah 15:16*



**FIRST MELISSA**



Theme verse for this teaching series

Your words were found and I ate them,  
and **Your words became for me a joy**  
and the delight of my heart; for I have  
been called by Your name, O Lord God of  
hosts. Jeremiah 15:16

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Psalm 13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

## Prayer for Help in Trouble.

**For the choir director. A Psalm of David.**

- 13** How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?  
How long will You hide Your face from me?
- 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul,  
*Having* sorrow in my heart all the day?  
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?
- 3 Consider *and* answer me, O LORD my God;  
Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the *sleep of* death,
- 4 And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"  
*And* my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.
- 5 But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;  
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to the LORD,  
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

**April 2020**



**FIRST MELISSA**



# ***How Long, O Lord?***

- How long will our world have to confront this disease?
- How long will medical leaders struggle to understand COVID?
- How long will political leaders pretend to have answers?
- How long will we have legal fights over the value of human life?
- How long will our lives feel so “un-normal”?
  
- If only we could experience the **joy of a new start.**

# Rosh Hashanah ראש השנה

Rosh Hashanah ראש השנה literally means “head of the year”

The Bible does not refer to the holiday as Rosh Hashanah;  
it describes the holiday as **Yom Hazikaron**  
יום הזכרון (Day of Remembrance) or **Yom Teruah** יום תרועה  
(Day of the Blasting of Trumpets).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosh\\_Hashanah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosh_Hashanah)

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# Why should New Testament believers celebrate Old Testament holidays like Rosh Hashanah / Yom Teruah?

Believers in Messiah Jesus have freedom to celebrate these holidays or not to do so. Celebration of these festivals is a great way to draw attention to our Messiah, as each of the appointed festivals in Leviticus 23 points to Jesus. We remember His first coming and looking forward to His return.

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# Biblical New Years - There are 4 of them

**Passover** – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Nissan - when reigns of kings were determined and counted

- This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. Exodus 12:2
- Nissan is considered the first month of the Hebrew calendar, though years are counted from the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month. The First of Nissan was considered the new year for counting the years of the reigns of kings in ancient Israel. It is also the new year for ordering the Jewish holidays. The month of Nissan is closely tied with the festival of Passover; and while Rosh Hashanah is seen as the anniversary of the creation of the world, the first day of Nissan is seen as the anniversary of the founding of the Jewish people when they escaped from Egypt during the Passover story.
- Passover is the “morning” of the year.

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# Biblical New Years - There are 4 of them

## **Elul** – judgment on animals (tithe of cattle)

The second new year's day is on the first day of Elul, the sixth month of the Hebrew calendar, which usually falls in the late summer (August). According to the Mishnah, this was the new year for animal tithes. It was used to determine the start date for the animal tithe to the priestly class in ancient Israel, similar to how we use April 15th in the U.S. as tax day. Generally, this new year's day is no longer observed, although the month of Elul does mark the beginning of preparations for Rosh Hashanah.



# Biblical New Years - There are 4 of them

**Tu B'Shvat** – 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of Shvat, the new years for trees

- This is the date when there is supposed to be enough rains for trees to be saturated and ready to start new year.
- This is when the almond trees will blossom, the first trees to “awaken” from winter.
- Tu B'Shvat is considered the new year's day for trees, usually falling between January and February. According to the Torah, fruits cannot be consumed from trees less than three years old, and Tu B'Shvat was used as the starting date for determining the age of the trees. Unlike the first of Nisan and the first of Elul, Tu B'Shvat is widely observed as a minor Jewish holiday.

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# Biblical New Years - There are 4 of them

## • Rosh Hashanah

- It falls on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar, which usually corresponds to the month of September.
- It marks the day when the Hebrew calendar year advances and is seen traditionally as the date when the world was created. This week, we begin year 5782.
- In ancient times, it was also used for calculating certain tithes, such as those for vegetables, and for calculating the start of Sabbatical and Jubilee years when land was left fallow.
- Rosh Hashanah is the “evening” of the agricultural year, at the end of the harvest. After harvest, most farmers would be proud of themselves. Instead, that is the perfect time to thank God.
- It is parallel to Jewish prayers after meals – because anyone can pray when they are hungry. People are usually not thankful when they are satisfied.
  - “When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.” Deuteronomy 8:10

# Leviticus 23

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Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month [Tishrei] on the first of the month you shall have a rest [shabbaton שַׁבְּתוֹן], a reminder [זִכְרוֹן zikron memorial] by blowing [teruah תְּרוּעָה] of **trumpets**, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord.’ ” Leviticus 23:23-25

- Today’s date on the Hebrew calendar is 28<sup>th</sup> (next to last) day of Elul
- Tomorrow night (Monday) begins the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Tishrei

# What lessons can we learn as we observe the Day of Trumpets (Yom Teruah)?



# Blowing of the Shofar

- Perhaps the most iconic aspect of Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the shofar. This is a twisted or curved ram's horn that is sounded on each day of the holiday, unless that first day happens to land on Shabbat (Sabbath). During years when Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat, the shofar will only be blown on the second day.
- After the Torah is read in the morning, the shofar is blown 30 times. However, it will be blown up to 70 more times while Musaf services are held (prayers recited on Shabbat, major Jewish holidays and Rosh Chodesh), as well as right afterward. Throughout Rosh Hashanah services, the shofar will get blown up to 100 times.
- There are four different kinds of shofar blasts that are done.
  - Tekiah – A long, single blast; a sobbing-like sound; sound of a king's coronation
  - Shevarim – Three consecutive and brief wails, signifying repentance
  - Teruah – Nine or more incredibly alarming and high-pitched bursts, to awaken the soul
  - Tekiah hagadol – a final long blast



# Feast of Trumpets

‘Now in the seventh month [Tishrei], on the first day of the month, you shall also have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work. It will be to you a day for blowing [יום תְּרוּעָה yom teruah] **trumpets.**’ Numbers 29:1

\*Yom Teruah יום תְּרוּעָה literally "day of blasting"

\*Unlike other biblical holidays, there is no explicit reason given in the Torah for its observance other than to rest and offer sacrifice.

\*The number seven always signifies holiness. The seventh month is to the year what the Sabbath is to the week. – Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



‘You shall offer a burnt offering as a soothing aroma to the Lord: one bull, one ram, and seven male lambs one year old without defect; also their grain offering, fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs.’ Numbers 29:2-4

\*The central elements are the number 7 (7th month, 7 male lambs offered), the abstaining from regular work, the sounding of the ram's horn trumpets, various burnt offerings, and the sin offering of one male goat to make atonement for sin.

‘Offer one male goat for a sin [חַטָּאת chattat] offering, to make atonement for you, besides the burnt offering of the new moon [Rosh Chodesh] and its grain offering, and the continual burnt offering and its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, for a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the Lord.’ Numbers 29:5-6

\*Rosh Hashanah is the only holiday observed on the first day of a month (on a new moon).

\*Rosh Hashanah is always Rosh Chodesh (beginning of a month) but does not negate obligations of Rosh Chodesh.



# Lots of sacrifices in Numbers 29:2-6

- Rosh Hashanah is not one of the Three Pilgrimages so all the Jewish people would not have journeyed to the Temple in Jerusalem
- Only priests were doing the sacrifices on behalf of the people, this is done as representatives of the nation
- Animals had to be bought by priests using money from Temple treasury
- Numbers 29:1 “you” do no laborious work = everybody
- Numbers 29:2 “you” refers to priests on behalf of the people
- Numbers 29:6 Rosh Chodesh offering (see Numbers 28:11-15)
- Burnt offering – animal body completely consumed by fire; spiritual meaning of being completely given up to God (not partly taken back and eaten)
- korban קָרְבָּן is “sacrifice” (root word means “come near, approach”)
- Grain offering (סֹלֶת solet) means finely sifted flour



# Feast of Trumpets

‘Now in the seventh month [Tishrei], on the first day of the month, you shall also have a **holy convocation**; you shall do no laborious work. It will be to you a day for blowing [תְּרוּעָה yom יום teruah] **trumpets.**’ Numbers 29:1

This holy convocation formed the basis for what we now know as Rosh Hashanah. The sound of the trumpets reminded the people of the Lord’s faithfulness thus far, rang in the year to come, and also hinted at the future coming of the Messiah. For many years, however, this memorial day to the Lord fell into disuse, as we see in the book of Nehemiah.

<https://jewsforjesus.org/jewish-resources/jewish-holidays/rosh-hashanah>

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- Nehemiah 8–9 tells us that on the first day of the seventh month (Tishrei), the Israelites gathered by the water gate in Jerusalem to listen to the Levites (members of the priestly tribe). Ezra the scribe opened the scroll of the Torah and read from it. The Israelites wept when they heard him read, for they had lived in ignorance for so long in the Babylonian exile that they no longer spoke Hebrew (see Nehemiah 13:24) or knew the precepts of the Torah.
- Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. Nehemiah 8:2
- It was a bitter discovery, but Nehemiah and the Levites told the Israelites not to despair.
- Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” Nehemiah 8:10–11
- The feasting which Nehemiah commanded for the first of Tishrei was a key precedent for establishing the tenor and significance of Rosh Hashanah. The passage’s most salient emotions—sorrow for past wrongs and joy at the prospect of reconciliation—have imbued the holiday of Rosh Hashanah ever since.

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# Feast of Trumpets

‘Now in the seventh month [Tishrei], on the first day of the month, you shall also have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work. **It will be to you a day for blowing [תְּרוּעָה yom יום teruah] trumpets.’**

Numbers 29:1



# The Shofar of Mercy: the Binding of Isaac

- “Abraham said, ‘God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.’”  
Genesis 22:8
- **Since the shofar is a ram’s horn, it may be understood to represent God’s mercy** as demonstrated in the Book of Genesis when God spared the life of Isaac. In obedience to God’s command, Abraham had prepared to offer up his son on the altar as a sacrifice; however, true to Abraham’s faith, **God stayed His hand and provided a ram** caught in the thicket for the sacrifice.
- Although some blow the ram's horn (shofar) to remind us of God’s mercy to Abraham, God has revealed His mercy to us even more so through Yeshua (Jesus). He did not spare the life of His only Son, but gave it up for us in order that our names may be written in the Book of Life (see Romans 8:32).
- The traditional holiday blessing: **May your name be inscribed in the Book of Life!**
- "Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the **Lamb's book of life.**" *WORDS OF JOY*  
Revelation 21:27 (see also Revelation 3:5, Exodus 32:32, Psalm 139:16)



## Sounding the Shofar as an Alarm

“Blow the **trumpet [shofar]** in Zion, and **sound an alarm** in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: **for the day of the Lord comes**, for it is close at hand; a day of darkness and gloominess.... Tear your heart, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord, your God; for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and relents from sending calamity.” Joel 2:1–2, 13

## Sounding the Shofar to Call an Assembly

“Blow the **trumpet [shofar]** in Zion! Sanctify a fast. **Call a solemn assembly.**” Joel 2:15



# The Shofar in Warfare

The Bible contains many references to the shofar being used in battle. Joshua and his Israelite army took the enemy city of Jericho with the sounding of the **shofarot** (plural of shofar).

“So the people shouted, and the priests blew the **trumpets [shofarot]**. It happened, when the people heard the sound of the **trumpet [shofar]**, that the people shouted with a great shout, and 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

In the Book of Judges, Gideon and his small band of men blew their **trumpets [shofarot]** and gained a victory over the Midianites (*Judges 7:19–25*).

“When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.”  
Judges 7:22



# The Shofar of Impending Judgment

In the Book of Revelation, **judgment begins with the blast of the shofar** and the earth is struck with plagues reminiscent of those in Egypt:

“The first angel sounded his **trumpet**, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” Revelation 8:7

The blasts of the shofar will also herald the return of Yeshua (Jesus) and the resurrection of the dead. **Jesus will return with a shout and the "shofar call of God" at the event known as the rapture of the Church.**

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with **the trumpet [shofar call] of God**, and the dead in Christ [Messiah] will rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16

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# The Shofar Hailing King Messiah

**Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) will be hailed as King with the sounding of the seventh and final trumpet (shofar), an event known as His Second Coming.**

“The **seventh angel sounded**, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Messiah. He will reign forever and ever!’” Revelation 11:15

“Blow 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 comes, for it is close at hand.” Joel 2:1

"Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over His flock like a shepherd.'" Jeremiah 31:10



# Trumpets in the Scriptures

- Then the Lord will appear over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning; and the Lord God will blow the trumpet [שׁוֹפָר] shofar], and will march in the storm winds of the south.

Zechariah 9:14

- How blessed are the people who know the **joyful sound** [תְּרוּעָה] teruah - shout or blast]! O Lord, they walk in the light of Your countenance. In Your name they **rejoice** all the day, and by Your righteousness they are exalted. For You are the glory of their strength, and by Your favor our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the Lord, and our king to the Holy One of Israel. Psalm 89:15-18



# Rosh Hashanah in the New Testament

Scripture does not tell us if Jesus observed Rosh Hashanah in the Temple. But the Gospels show us that Jesus was no stranger to the Temple. He taught there and He worshiped there.

We can assume that Jesus celebrated these feasts every year of His earthly life, as did His disciples.

# Does Rosh Hashanah have prophetic significance?

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the **trumpet will sound**, and the dead will be raised imperishable [rapture of the Church], and we will be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Since Rosh Hashanah is the “Day of the Sounding of the Shofar” it looks forward to the moment when we hear the great sound of the shofar during the last days. At this time, God will transform the bodies of believers who have died, giving them new, immortal bodies. The sounding of the shofar thus encourages us to remember that our present bodies are only temporary, but we look forward to our eternal bodies, in which we will see the Lord face to face and be with Him forever.

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# Does Rosh Hashanah have prophetic significance?

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the **trumpet of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up [rapture of the Church] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

# How do you prepare for Rosh Hashanah?

- Turn to God (teshuvah - repentance)
- Turn to others we have harmed or offended (mechilah - forgiveness)
- Turn to those in need (tzedakah - charity)

All Hebrew prayers during this special holiday are prayed in the PLURAL, emphasizing that we are all interconnected spiritually.

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:26-27



# Rosh Hashanah reminders for Followers of Jesus

1. The Lord God is King of all the earth

For the Lord Most High is to be feared, a great King over all the earth. Psalm 47:2

2. Preparation for Rosh Hashanah reminds us to be ready for the soon appearance of King Jesus when He comes for His bride

Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:14-15

# Rosh Hashanah reminders for Followers of Jesus

3. Yom Teruah has prophetic significance for Christ-followers. The blowing of the shofar is prophetic of the rapture of the Church.

- Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
- If a trumpet [shofar שׁוֹפָר] is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not the Lord done it? Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets. Amos 3:6-7



# Rosh Hashanah reminders for Followers of Jesus

4. We should be grateful to the Lord for writing our names in the Lamb's Book of Life.

- He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior Titus 3:5-6

5. The binding of Isaac by Abraham in Genesis 22, and the theme of the provision of the ram's horn, looked ahead to the sacrifice of Jesus, God's Son.



# Messiah Jesus is the Fulfillment of Rosh Hashanah

- God has provided the ultimate Sabbath rest through Jesus the Messiah. We can rest from our own efforts to be accepted by God. Our own good works cannot save us, as even the song Avinu Malkeinu (Our Father, Our King) says: "We have no good works of our own; deal with us in mercy and kindness and save us."
- Messiah Jesus is our sin offering. If we recognize our sin, turn away from it, and return to God in faith, we can be sure our names are inscribed in the Book of Life (Philippians 4:3 and Revelation 3:5). The ultimate Day of Judgment of sin will come. Jesus' death demonstrated that sin must be judged. He received the judgement in our place. His resurrection shows that God has appointed Him the Judge (John 5:21-27; 12:31; and Acts 17:31).
- The Ultimate Day of Judgement will come when the **trumpet shall sound** and Jesus the Messiah returns to judge the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52). He will preside over the heavenly court. We are called to repent and celebrate the New Creation that has begun in the Messiah (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 5:12-19; and 1 Corinthians 15:45) and will come in fullness when He returns (Romans 9:19-22).



# Occasions to Blow the Shofar (Trumpet)

**In the Biblical times of Israel, the shofar was blown:**

1. To **mark** the arrival of a new moon
2. To **celebrate** a simcha (joyous occasion)
3. To **proclaim** liberty to the captives
4. To **hail** a king at his coronation
5. To **warn** of impending judgment
6. To **gather** troops to battle
7. To **sound** an alarm
8. To **call** a sacred assembly and time of fasting
9. To **confuse** the enemy camp
10. To **draw** God's attention

# Why Should We Sound The Shofar Today?

- To **mark** the arrival of a new moon THIS TUESDAY, SEPT. 7 (MOON IS COMPLETELY DARK)
- To **celebrate** a **simcha** (joyous occasion) THE DESIRE OF THIS SERIES AND OUR NATION
- To **proclaim** liberty to the captives FREEDOMS ARE IN JEOPARDY AROUND THE WORLD
- To **hail** a king at his coronation PEOPLE IN AMERICA ARE LOOKING FOR REAL LEADERSHIP
- To **warn** of impending judgment WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS
- To **gather** troops to battle AMERICA IS IN A MEDICAL AND SPIRITUAL BATTLE RIGHT NOW
- To **sound** an alarm BELIEVERS AROUND THE WORLD ARE PRAYING FOR REVIVAL
- To **call** a sacred assembly and time of fasting WILL WE SEE A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING?
- To **confuse** the enemy camp WHO SEEMS TO BE WINNING AND GAINING POWER NOW?
- To **draw** God's attention WE NEED GRACE, HEALING, HOPE, DIRECTION, AND JOY



# Followers of Jesus are fighting a spiritual battle today and need joy

God's promise in the Book of Numbers to deliver His people when they blow the shofar in battle is still applicable:

“**When you go to war** in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, then you shall **sound an alarm with the trumpets [shofarot]**. Then you will be remembered before the Lord your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.” Numbers 10:9



**Sound The Shofar Today**