



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Teruah! Sound the Alarm"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Passages: Joel 2:1-4; Lev. 23:24, 27; Joel 1:2-4, 14, 19; Is. 30:20-21; Ex 34:6-7; Jonah 3:9

The season of the *Yamim Nora'im*—the Days of Awe—calls us to wakefulness. Yom Teruah, the "Day of the Shouting Reminder," is not simply a tradition; it's an appointed time for our hearts to hear the alarm of heaven. God has woven reminders into His calendar so that His people would be startled awake before it's too late. Like an alarm clock at dawn, the shofar's blasts are not meant to comfort our slumber but to break it. In Joel's day, as in ours, God's voice is sounding—calling us to examine ourselves before Him, for a day of accounting draws near. *"Speak to Bnei-Yisrael, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you are to have a Shabbat rest, a memorial of blowing (shofarot), a holy convocation"* (Lev. 23:24 TLV).

The three types of shofar blasts—Tekiah, Shevarim, and Teruah—speak volumes. Tekiah announces routine change; Shevarim heralds transition or a king's arrival; Teruah, the most urgent, is the sound of alarm. Joel 2 picks up that theme: an urgent warning, a heavenly siren, calling God's people to awaken from complacency. Just as sirens in Israel demand immediate response to physical danger, the spiritual teruah demands an immediate response to eternal danger. We cannot afford to "hit snooze."

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2. SOUND THE ALARM: THE LORD WANTS OUR ATTENTION (Joel 2:1-11)

Joel 2 begins with a clear command: *"Blow the shofar in Zion! Sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all living in the land tremble—for the day of ADONAI is coming—surely it is near!"* (Joel 2:1 TLV). The purpose of the shofar here is urgent—wake up! The Day of the Lord is approaching. Joel describes devastation so severe that Eden itself becomes a desert, armies swarm like locusts, and the very heavens tremble. What's most shocking is verse 11: *"ADONAI utters His voice before His army... For great is the day of ADONAI—very terrifying! Who can endure it?"* The army is not just an enemy—it is God's instrument. The alarm isn't to get His attention; it's to get ours.

Warnings had come before, but the people ignored them. They assumed their religious rituals and lineage would protect them, but God makes clear: going through the motions is not enough. He is not indifferent to sin. Greed, immorality, pride, idolatry—all are serious before Him. Joel's vision reminds us that God sends alarms, not to crush us, but to awaken us before the ultimate Day of Judgment arrives. This judgment was meant to jolt Israel back to reality, to strip away false securities, and to call them to repentance while there was still time. Don't wait until the crisis comes to turn your heart. Respond to God's warnings now—before it's too late.

2. YET EVEN NOW: THE CALL TO TESHUVAH (Repent) (Joel 2:12-14)

Just when despair seems overwhelming, God's mercy breaks in: *"Yet even now... turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting"* (Joel 2:12). Even in the midst of devastation, hope remains. God's call to repentance is an invitation to life. The shofar doesn't just announce judgment—it announces opportunity. As long as the final trumpet

has not sounded, it is not too late to return. His patience is not weakness but love, as Peter writes: *“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise... Rather, He is being patient toward you—not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance”* (2 Pet 3:9).

But the repentance God desires is not shallow or external. He says, *“Rend your heart, not your garments, and turn to ADONAI your God. For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abundant in mercy, and relenting about the calamity due”* (Joel 2:13). Outward rituals mean nothing if our hearts remain unchanged. What God longs for is intimacy, restoration, and true communion with Him. Joel even dares to hope that God will not only hold back punishment but also leave a blessing behind. The greatest blessing is restored relationship with Him. Take time to “rend your heart” today. Let God expose what needs to change and return to Him fully.

CONCLUSION

On Yom Teruah, the shofar is sounded repeatedly—Tekiah, Shevarim, Teruah—until finally the great *Tekiah G’dolah*. It is a parable of God’s persistent voice throughout our lives. Sometimes His voice says, “All is well.” Sometimes He signals change or summons us to rejoice. And at other times, He cries out, “Alarm! Wake up!” One day, the final blast will sound, whether at our last breath or at Messiah’s return. Until then, God keeps speaking, urging us to hear and respond.

The alarms of Scripture are not meant to terrify us into despair but to call us into the shelter of God’s love. He is a Father sounding the alarm to wake His children from the trance of sin and lead them back to life. He calls us to listen to His voice—not tomorrow, but today. If we heed Him now, we will meet the final trumpet not with fear, but with joy, running into the arms of our Redeemer. Commit yourself to listen daily for God’s voice, responding quickly and fully whenever He speaks.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think God chooses to use such loud, startling images like the shofar to get our attention?
2. How have you seen God “sound the alarm” in your own life to wake you up spiritually?
3. What does it mean to you personally to “rend your heart and not your garments”?
4. How does God’s patience, as described in 2 Peter 3:9, change the way you view His warnings and judgments?
5. What “blessing behind” are you hoping for as you return to God in repentance?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Avinu Malkenu, Our Father, Our King, we hear Your alarm today. Thank You for loving us enough to wake us from spiritual slumber. Forgive us for ignoring Your warnings and for treating sin lightly. Teach us to rend our hearts, not just our garments, and to return to You with all that we are. Thank You for being gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy. May we never grow calloused to Your voice, but run quickly to You as our refuge. Prepare us for the final trumpet by keeping our hearts awake, watchful, and faithful.

B'Shem Yeshua, In Yeshua's Name, Amen.