



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Yom Teruah: The Day of the Shout."

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Lev. 23:23-25; Num. 29:1-6; Ex. 19:16-19; Neh. 8:1-12; Ps. 81:1-16; Joel 2:1-13

Today we're looking at *Yom Teruah*, the biblical feast often called *Rosh Hashanah*. Now, "Rosh Hashanah" means *Head of the Year*, and in Jewish tradition it's celebrated as the New Year. But biblically, the first of the seventh month, *Tishri*, is called *Yom Teruah*—"The Day of the Shout," or "The Day of Alarm." It kicks off the *Days of Awe*—ten days of reflection leading up to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

What's striking about these days is that they aren't tied to agriculture or a historical event like Passover or Sukkot. They're purely spiritual. God set apart this season to get our attention, to search our hearts, and to call us back to Him. And the way He does it is with a *shout*—through the sound of the shofar, which represents His voice calling His people. So what does *Yom Teruah* mean for us? What does it mean to hear the shout of the Lord? Let's look at three key truths.

1. THE SHOUT GETS OUR ATTENTION

When God commands His people to blow the shofar (Lev. 23:23-25; Num. 29:1-6), He's not just talking about a ritual. The shofar is an alarm, a wake-up call. Think about it: *Tekiah* (a steady blast) says, "Pay attention" and "all is well." *Shevarim* (three broken notes) says, "Something is shifting." *Teruah* (nine or more sharp blasts) says, "Wake up—danger is near." And *Tekiah Gedolah* (the great, long blast) reminds us of the final trumpet, the coming of Messiah.

The point isn't whether you hear the sound—it's whether you're listening to the message behind it. Psalm 81 says, "*Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you... Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!*" (vv. 8, 13). God is saying, "I'm sounding the alarm because I love you. Don't tune me out." Yom Teruah reminds us that the Lord is always speaking, but we have to tune our ears to Him. If we treat His voice like background noise, we'll miss His warnings—and His blessings.

2. THE SHOUT CALLS US TO REPENTANCE

The season of Elul (the month before Tishri) and the Ten Days of Awe were designed to be a time of self-examination. Joel 2 says, "*Blow the shofar in Zion... Yet even now, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments*" (vv. 1, 12-13).

When Nehemiah describes Yom Teruah after the exile (Neh. 8), the people wept when they heard God's Word read aloud. They realized their failures. But God's message wasn't, "Stay in your grief." It was, "*Do not grieve, for the joy of Adonai is your strength.*" The shout of the Lord convicts, but it also restores.

So this day is not about empty ritual. It's about repentance that leads to renewal. It's God's mercy calling us to turn, so that He can forgive, heal, and give us His joy again.

3. THE SHOUT POINTS US TO OUR HOPE

The shofar has always carried prophetic meaning. It sounded at Sinai when God gave His Word (Ex. 19). It was blown to announce a king, to proclaim liberty in the Jubilee year, and it will sound at Messiah's return.

Every Yom Teruah is both a memorial and a rehearsal. We look back and remember God's faithfulness—the ram in the thicket for Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 22). But we also look forward in hope. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15 that *“at the last trumpet, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”*

The shofar is God's reminder: He is Creator, King, and Judge. But for those who belong to Yeshua, the shout of the Lord is not just an alarm of judgment—it's the sound of redemption, of His coming, of final victory.

CONCLUSION

So today, as we remember Yom Teruah, let's hear the voice of the Lord. His shout is not just noise—it's a call. A call to wake up. A call to repent. A call to hope in Him. Don't ignore His voice. Don't treat it like background noise. Avail your ear—open your heart—and let the Lord speak. Because when He does, He doesn't just warn. He promises joy, renewal, and the hope of His coming.

Maybe today you've been hearing the alarm of the Lord in your life. Maybe you've been drifting, distracted, or weighed down with sin. God is sounding the trumpet to get your attention. Don't wait until tomorrow. Today, hear His voice. Today, repent. Today, find joy in His forgiveness. If you've never surrendered to Yeshua, the ultimate sacrifice who took your place, today is the day of salvation. And if you already belong to Him but you've grown dull of hearing, today is the day to renew your ear and heart to His call.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some ways God has “sounded the alarm” in your life recently? Did you recognize it as His voice?
2. Which of the shofar sounds (Tekiah, Shevarim, Teruah, Tekiah Gedolah) speaks most to your current season, and why?
3. How does understanding Yom Teruah as “The Day of the Shout” change the way you think about Rosh Hashanah?
4. Why do you think repentance and joy are connected in God's call during the Days of Awe?
5. How can the hope of the final trumpet (Messiah's return) encourage you in your walk of faith today?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, thank You for sounding the alarm in our lives—not to condemn us, but to call us back to You. Thank You for the voice of Your Spirit that awakens us, convicts us, and gives us hope. We confess that too often we've ignored Your call or treated it as background noise. Forgive us, Lord. Today we open our ears and hearts. Speak to us, and give us the courage to respond. Fill us with the joy of Your salvation, and remind us of the hope we have in Messiah. May we be ready when the final trumpet sounds.

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amen.