



Sounding the Shofar



The sound of the shofar can reach beyond words, straight into the soul. We blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah to wake up our hearts, to remind us to return, to cry out, and to begin again.

Here, some of us will blow the shofar. Some of us will make the sounds with our voices. Some of us will listen to the sounds online or in our imaginations. All are welcome. All are part of this holy moment.

We begin with Tekiah. It's one long, whole note. It reminds us that we begin whole. Whole-hearted. Whole-souled. Ready. Everybody, repeat the word after me. *Tekiah... [Tekiah]*

Blow or make the sound Tekiah — one long, clear blast.

Next comes Shevarim. These are three short, broken sounds. They sound like a sigh, or a cracked heart. The notes remind us that even when we feel broken, we can still begin again. *Shevarim... [Shevarim]*

Blow or make the sound Shevarim — three medium blasts.

Now we hear Teruah. This is a burst of nine or more very short sounds that sound like trembling or crying. The sounds remind us that the world is calling, and we are needed to help repair it. *Teruah... [Teruah].*

Blow or make the sound Teruah — at least nine quick short blasts.

We return to Tekiah. We come back to the whole sound, reminding us that even after hurt or fear, we can return to strength and peace.

Blow or make the sound Tekiah — one long, clear blast.

And now we end with Tekiah Gedolah. This is the longest sound of all. It stretches forward like hope. It carries our prayers into the New Year.

Tekiah Gedolah... [Tekiah Gedolah].

[Blow or make the sound Tekiah Gedolah — one extra-long, strong blast.

Pause. Let the echoes linger.]

We have heard the call. May the shofar awaken us to kindness, to courage, and to the work of *teshuvah* — returning to who we are meant to be. Amen.

CREDITS

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