

The Shofar

The Shofar is translated “trumpet” in the Scriptures. It played a significant role in bringing men and women into the presence of God.

There are three sounds made with the **shofar**:

- Tekiah - One long blast with a clear tone
- Shevarim - Three shorter blasts
- Teruah - A series of 9 quick blasts (nine or more)
- Tekiah Gedolah - a single unbroken blast, held as long as possible



It was used on occasions stipulated by God in the Old Testament. I will list just seven here.

1. It announces the entrance into the Holy of Holies
2. It ushered in the slaying of the Passover Lamb
3. It is blown as a call to prayer
4. It called God’s people into the presence of God on Rosh HaShana
5. It is a call to repentance
6. It is a call to the army to battle.
7. It is blown at the end of battle and when the King is Coming

The Shofar Blown – The Lamb is Slain

The day Jesus was crucified was the day of the Passover celebration and the day that the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed. For the previous 1,200 years, the priest would blow the **shofar** (ram’s horn) at 3:00 p.m. – the moment the lamb was sacrificed, and all the people would pause to contemplate the sacrifice for sins on behalf of the people of Israel. At 3:00 pm when Jesus was being crucified, He said, “It is finished”- at the moment that the Passover lamb was sacrificed and the **shofar** was blown from the Temple.

The Veil of the Temple

At the same time, the veil of the Temple (a three-inch thick, several story high cloth that demarked the Holy of Holies) tore from top to bottom – representing a removal of the separation between God and man.

During the lifetime of Jesus, the holy temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish religious life. The temple was the place where animal sacrifices were carried out and worship according to the Law of Moses was followed faithfully. [Hebrews 9:1-9](#) tells us that in the temple a veil

separated the Holy of Holies—the earthly dwelling place of God’s presence—from the rest of the temple where men dwelt. This signified that man was separated from God by sin ([Isaiah 59:1-2](#)). Only the high priest was permitted to pass beyond this veil once each year ([Exodus 30:10](#); [Hebrews 9:7](#)) to enter into God's presence for all of Israel and make atonement for their sins (Leviticus 16).

Solomon's temple was 30 cubits high ([1 Kings 6:2](#)), but Herod had increased the height to 40 cubits, according to the writings of Josephus, a first century Jewish historian. There is uncertainty as to the exact measurement of a cubit, but it is safe to assume that this veil was somewhere near 60 feet high. Josephus also tells us that the veil was four inches thick and that horses tied to each side could not pull the veil apart. The book of Exodus teaches that this thick veil was fashioned from blue, purple and scarlet material and fine twisted linen.

The size and thickness of the veil makes the events occurring at the moment of Jesus’ death on the cross so much more momentous. “And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” ([Matthew 27:50-51a](#)).

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore approach God’s throne of grace, with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need.



Video Shofar

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=inu9CIFy-GM>