

Rosh Hashanah: The Shofar Call to Ancient Paths

*A Messianic Jewish Teaching by Rabbi Jeff
... to build, to encourage, to inspire*

Year after year the shofar summons us to awaken and get our bearings: Where are we? Where have we come from? Where are we going? How are we doing with what really counts?

The importance of this is magnified when we consider our surroundings - a world that has lost its spiritual bearings and is lacking a true moral compass. Humanity needs to heed the Word of God before it is too late... for the 'Day of the Lord' is surely coming.

The prophet Jeremiah lived at a time when our Jewish people had turned from God and lost their spiritual trajectory. In Jeremiah 6:16-17 we see them at the crossroads – will it be mercy or judgement? God pleads with them to seek Him so that He can be merciful.

Thus says the LORD:

“Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the shofar!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’ (Jeremiah 6:16-17)

God gives them four directive words of encouragement. If they choose to heed, they will find rest; if not, disaster.

As we approach the sounding of the Shofar, may God give us ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

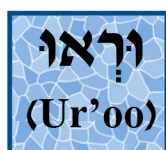
I. Stand in the Ways



(Imdoo) means 'Stand'. It implies standing still to get your bearings. The more we move into uncharted territory, the less we can rely on "Well, I've always done it this way." The Word of the Lord is: Stop! Don't rush ahead. Slow down and come to a complete stop.... *"Stand in the ways..."*

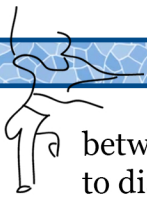
It conveys the idea that we need get still so that we can hear from the Lord. In this upcoming season of the Fall Feasts, as the shofar sounds, we need to hear what God is saying to us.

II. See



(Ur'oo) means to look around with discernment. In essence, this is the wisdom that Solomon had asked for when he first became king. He had requested the ability to *"understand and discern justice" (1Kings 3:11)*.

Discernment is the ability to distinguish. It is both a gift and a skill; one that will be vitally important in the last days ahead. We will need to discern between flesh and Spirit, between darkness and light,



between truth and error. We will need to seek God for the gift of ‘Discerning of Spirits’. We will need to discern God’s will, the leading of the Spirit and the signs of our times.

III. Ask



(Sha’alu) means to inquire of the Lord with faith. We are to *“ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is...”* It is the same word used when God spoke to Solomon in I Kings 3:5 *“Ask! What shall I give you?”* The same word used when David inquired of the Lord before going into battle (I Samuel 23:1-4).

When we ask, we must also believe that we will receive guidance from the Lord. *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8)*

God tells us to ask for the ancient paths. These ancient paths have been designed for us before the foundation of the world. These are the paths of faith that God has appointed for us! At the crossroad, always choose the path of faith in the Word of God.

IV. Walk In It



(Ul’choo) - once we hear from God, we must respond by walking in His counsel with courage and energy.

God will measure the intent of our hearts and our level of energy and faith in following through with His Word. In Mark 4:24-25, He says: *“With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”*

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16) There is only one safe place to be and that is walking in the Word and in the will of God!

The result of God’s instruction? This word from Jeremiah tells us that when we stop, look, listen and respond, then we *“...will find rest for our souls.”* When we truly seek God, we will come face to face with the Shepherd of our soul. He is the One who said: *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)*

The people in Jeremiah’s day would not listen to the shofar and would not heed God’s Word; how tragic!

Today, we too have an opportunity to hear God’s voice and *“listen to the sound of the shofar.”* Will we be wise? Will we stand, see, ask, and walk in the will of the Father? May we not only say yes for ourselves, but also say yes to being a watchmen in our generation. Let us point the lost to the Lord and encourage them to heed the sound of the shofar for themselves!



Ministry Testimony

As an example of how Jewish people are hearing the call of the Gospel shofar we are sounding, we’ve included the testimony of Anastasia, who was recently saved, married and immersed in water.

