

THE HORN OF THE LORD

BY DANIEL CLARK



The horn of the Lord referred to in the Bible is usually the shofar or ram's horn. In most cases, this is the trumpet referred to in the Old Testament. The shofar is the horn of a ram that has been cut from his body, had the interior tissue removed and the tip removed and reshaped to form a mouthpiece. The mouthpiece is smaller than the modern trumpet making it more difficult to blow. In the Jewish tradition there are no foreign or man-made materials added to the ram's horn. Although trumpet mouthpieces are sometimes added but

then the horn is no longer kosher and therefore becomes unfit for temple use.

This is the horn or trumpet referred to in 1 Cor. 15:52: *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* (KJV)¹ It is the same horn that went before the Arc of the covenant, and was used in the

seven-day siege of Jericho. That is where God destroyed the impenetrable walls of the fortified city. (The whole city was built like one gigantic vault).

So, why use a ram's horn instead of the shiny metal instrument we are used to seeing today? The answer is really very simple. Man will get none of the glory for God's work. Not even credit for making the instrument. A shofar is an instrument made by God and the animal from which it came shed its blood for the making of this horn. As the musician blows the horn it is the breath of life (Having originated with God), or more understandably the wind of the Spirit, that passes through this horn of sacrifice where it reverberates to make the sound you hear. The sacrifice is a blood sacrifice the animal having died. The inside of the horn is filled with flesh and blood hence the odor of death that is released into the air when it is sounded. The air passing through the horn comes from the lungs of a man whose breath originated with God. Gen 2:7: *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* (KJV)¹ Man, as a living soul, has the breath of life in him. Therefore, it is this breath of life that passes through the shofar.

Now, in these last days the Christian church is recognizing the shofar. It has been gaining popularity for the last few years among part of Christian churches. Usually it is the nondenominational church that embraces it. The shofar strikes at the heart of the religious spirit. When this horn is sounded the evil spirits react in fear. The people that are allowing those spirits to be expressed through them become aggravated at the sound. All of hell knows the sound of the trump of God and the body of Christ should learn it. It will be the sound that summons us home.

There are many people who find the shofar objectionable because of the mind-sets fueled by the religious spirits who fear the sound. Those spirits recognize the sound and know

that will be the sound marking the time of transformation ending their reign. A certain preacher said the shofar destroys the spiritual fabric of the veil preventing men from seeing the truths of God. (Paraphrased by the author) He spoke of the enlightenment that had come to previously resistant people after the shofar was sounded in a meeting.

As with many of the things now being accepted by the Christian church in America the shofar has been an integral part of Jewish life and worship for centuries. It was often referred to in the Bible and has been revered by God's chosen people throughout the ages. It is this awakening by God that has brought the shofar into its current popularity among Christians. If you will look around with spiritual understanding you will begin seeing many such things coming to light in this day. The Christian church has traditionally treated the Jewish customs with disregard as though they were the chosen of God. Let us not forget the Hebrew children are truly the chosen people. They were chosen as the vessel of God to make himself know to all men. All mankind is designed in the image of God and have opportunity to be just like Him. The physical children of Abraham were the carriers of Gods message but they have been temporarily blinded to the truth so the gentiles might enter in by way of adoption. No one will enter in except through Jesus, the Messiah. He is the same Messiah the Jewish people talk about all day long, but He has been hidden from them. Even now, there is an awakening-taking place in Israel and Jesus is beginning to be recognized as Messiah. When that knowledge is common to the Jews, the world will have reached a condition of critical mass and the end will be upon it.

Some of the people embracing what is a new vehicle of worship to the Christian church are doing it with a sense of religious awe. There can be danger in ascribing undue religious sanctity in the articles of worship instead of the God being worshipped. Religious spirits will attach themselves to anything to gain your attention and the very objects meant to bring liberty can become avenues of enslavement. That can be true with

anything. However, when the motive of the heart is right it will not be a problem because God is just, and He will protect His children. The people who latch onto an instrument of worship, like the shofar, will do the same thing with any device that can be used to bolster their religious pride. Do not fear such people or condemn them but pray for God to open the eyes of their understanding so they might be set free.

At the Church at the North Gate, it has become a customary practice for the shofar to be sounded an hour or more before the Sunday service. It is not a routine that cannot be broken but a custom that brings comfort and a sense of liberty to the morning's worshipers. During the Praise and Worship part of the service, those with shofars are encouraged to sound them as the Spirit leads. There is a discernable change in the entire congregation during Praise and Worship since this became one of the integral elements of the service. The shofar has found its place in the Praise and Worship team, with one man sounding it from the platform as he also helps lead in the song service. There have been many services that have been taken over by the Holy Spirit with no message being preached at all because the Lord used the time to minister to His children personally. As this has developed, there has been a discernable increase in the congregations' recognition of their God. They hear that still small voice and respond to it willingly.