



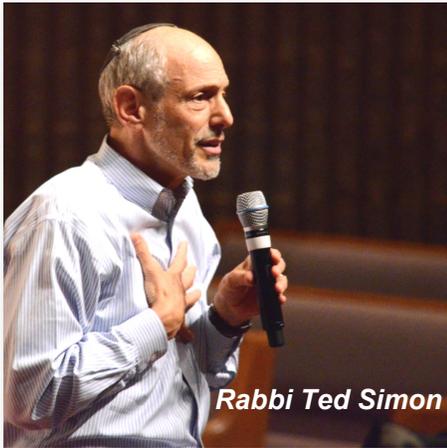
Time for the Church to reach the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel

## ARE YOU LISTENING?

*“The Lord God will blow the shofar (trumpet) . . . ”* (Zech 9:14)

As we enter the time of year most Jewish people still revere to some degree because of the Fall Feasts, it is critical to see how our Messiah Yeshua fits into the Tenakh, the Hebrew Scriptures.

It is clear the blowing of the shofar has great significance to God. He has used it mightily in several scripturally historic stories of victory. Take the story of Gideon in Judges 7. The Lord used only 300 men to defeat more than 100,000 Midianites with the aid of the shofar.



Rabbi Ted Simon

Everyone knows the story of Jericho. Joshua (in Joshua 6) employs the Lord’s battle plan to march around the great walled city, blow the shofar and shout a great shout. The huge wall then collapses and the heathen city is destroyed.

Note that in both these episodes, there is neither great military strategy nor common sense, but simple faith in God. Indeed, it is not a coincidence He chose to use the sound of the shofar to accomplish triumph.

As the Lord prompted Moses to declare the first of the three Fall Feasts, He focused first on the shofar. Yom Teruah, the Day of the Sounding of the Shofar, or the Feast of Trumpets, is described in Leviticus 23:4 and Numbers 29:1. It is described simply as a day to blow the shofar.



Unfortunately, the Jewish religion has made this day the Jewish New Year, called Rosh Hashana, which is just not biblical. Either way, this celebration begins this year at sunset on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, lasting until sunset on the 10<sup>th</sup> (equating to the first day of Tishri, the 7<sup>th</sup> month on the Hebrew calendar).

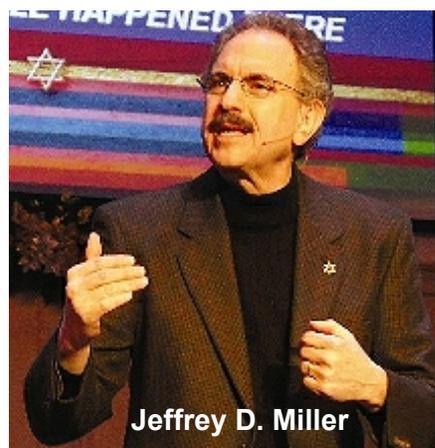
**But here is the best part of this observance:** it is a huge pointer to the day when all kinds of prophetic words will become reality. *Continued on page 2.*

## Nothing But the Blood!

The simple reason the ancient Jewish people sacrificed all those animals is that God told them to do it. But the reason He required it is equally as important. He said in Leviticus 17:11, *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood.”*

As man’s knowledge of the human body has increased over the years, we have long passed the point of understanding the

significance of blood as the source of our physical life. Indeed, the first rule of first aid is, stop the bleeding. But they didn’t know first aid in Moses’ day, so God’s statement about the blood was truly definitive for that time.



Jeffrey D. Miller

Continuing in Leviticus 17:11, *“For it is the blood that*

*makes atonement for the soul.”* Now there’s the kicker. God required the life of the flesh to make atonement for man’s sin. In other words, something alive had to die to satisfy God for our sins.

Of course, we know the ultimate sacrifice to satisfy God was His only begotten Son, our Messiah Yeshua.

What Jewish people need to know is how that act of utmost sacrifice is embodied in the commemoration of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the second of the Fall Feasts commanded by God in Leviticus 23.

There was a huge veil in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, as well as in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the area. The very presence of God dwelled in the Holy of Holies, and the High Priest of Israel was allowed to enter into it, behind the veil, only once a year at Yom Kippur. And he was under command to bring blood for atonement, lest he be struck dead for his sin.

The Day of Atonement, ten days after the Feast of Trumpets, had to be honored every year, year after year.

Now catch how the Jewish background brings full understanding to what Jesus accomplished on the cross.

The blood of animals is sinless. That’s because only humans are capable of sin (and we all do). Animals, as well as every other created thing other than humans, can’t sin. So when God demanded blood for sacrifice to atone for man’s sin, that blood had to be sinless. *Continued on page 2.*



## Fall Feasts 2018

### Sundown to Sundown

Yom Teruah Sunday 9/9 - Monday 9/10

Yom Kippur Tuesday 9/18 - Wednesday 9/19

Sukkot Sunday 9/23 - Sunday 9/30

## Are You Listening . . . Continued

In 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16, it is written *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout . . . and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Messiah will rise first.”* Wow, does that sound like what happened at Jericho? Shofar blowing and shouting bringing down the walls - in this case the walls separating us from heaven.

This same theme is apparent in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:52, *“For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”* There’s that shofar again, and again it creates a breakthrough.

Messiah Yeshua keeps the integrity of the importance of the shofar intact as well, as He proclaims in Matthew 24:31, *“And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet.”*

Now we don’t claim to know the timetable for any of this, but if it were to occur in your lifetime, will you hear it? Clearly, from all of the above scriptures, especially the first one, **we know the sound will be powerful.** Whether it will be a sound heard in the ear, or in the heart is not clear. Regardless, we believe it will take a heart prepared in order to hear.

As we often remind our listeners, Jesus told us to have ears to hear, referring not to our physical ears, but to our spiritual ears. To truly hear the Word of God, we must be ready in our hearts. Perhaps it is the same to hear the shofar of God.

Finally, literally, (Revelation 11:15) *“Then the seventh angel sounded (the seventh trumpet): and there were loud voices in heaven saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever.’”*

You can be sure that as Jewish people all over the world hear the shofar blown in their synagogues this month, the vast majority will have no idea about the true significance of that sound. **Their hearts are not prepared.**

Behold, the fields are white for the harvest. There is no better time to witness to Jewish people than this season of the Fall Feasts.

## Nothing But the Blood . . . Continued

You see, you can’t bring sin into the presence of God. That’s why there’s a heaven and a hell. That’s why the High Priest had to bring blood to atone for his own sin when he went behind the veil. We can’t atone for sin with an offering of sin.

Yeshua was the only human being ever created without sin who also led a completely sinless life. Therefore He had sinless blood. At the same time, as a human, He was a higher order of God’s earthly creation than any animal.

As a result, Jesus became the perfect sacrifice: a human being without sin. In fact, His perfection of the sin offering, as God delineated in the Tenakh, freed us from that task once and for all. God was totally satisfied and all our sin was forgiven by, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

In Leviticus 16:8-10, we find further requirements the Lord laid out specifically for Yom Kippur. He called for two goats (sinless) to be taken, one for the sin offering (as above) and one to be the scapegoat.

This scapegoat was to be kept alive and presented before the Lord. The High Priest was instructed to *“lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat . . .”* (Lev 16:21).

**This sinless goat was to become the recipient of Israel’s sin.** Verse 22 continues, *“The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land.”* Now we see why it was called the scapegoat.

But here’s the best part. Our Messiah, human being - born of a woman, but not sired by a sinful man - who never sinned, was therefore qualified to be a perfect scapegoat. And just like He did for the goat of the sin offering, Yeshua completely satisfied God once for all when He went to the cross.

According to the Jewish Apostle Peter (1 Peter 2:24) Jesus did what was required of the scapegoat when He *“Himself bore our sins in His own body . . .”* And the Jewish Apostle Paul realized this as well when he wrote (2 Corinthians 5:21) *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us . . .”*

See it? Our Messiah perfected the scapegoat when into His sinless body he took the sins, not just of Israel, but of the whole world. He then took our sins away. This may be a hard concept for some, but it is scripturally accurate. The sinless Jesus willingly became sin and therefore could not go to heaven. That’s because you can’t take sin into the presence of God.

Instead, He took it into the depths. But unlike the scapegoat which never came back, Jesus did, and did He ever! In resurrection power, He came back without the sin, thereby breaking the bondage of sin and death. Hallelujah!

So what Jesus really did on the cross was to complete what God set up for the Day of Atonement.



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