

SHOFAR BLESSING AND SHOFAR SOUNDS

Recite before blowing the Shofar:



***Ba*rulj at*tah Adonai, E*lo*he*nu me*lekh ha*o*lam,
A*sher ki*di*sha*nu b'mitz*vo*tav v'tzi*va*nu
lish*mo'a kol shofar***

*Blessed art Thou, Lord our G-d, Master of the universe,
who sanctifies us with His commandments and
commands us to hear the sound of the Shofar*

*The Following are descriptions of the
basic sounds of the Shofar:*

T'key-ah

A long blast beginning in musical mid-range and finishing as a high note.

Shvarim

Three staccato blasts. The duration of all three together is the length of a T'key-ah.

True-ah

A long ululating "wailing" sound. There are two main variants of the True-ah. One tradition uses nine separate short calls, in rapid sequence. The other is a single long call with nine wavering ululations.

T'key-ah Gdolah (Big Long T'key-ah)

A T'key-ah that you continue as long as you can. It comes at the end of the series of calls. T'key-ah Gdolah is usually the last Shofar call. It is a very long blast, used usually to announce the end of the holy day of Yom Kippur. Some Shofar blowers can hold a T'key-ah Gdolah for a minute or more. This dramatic call is the mark of a good Tokeiah (expert blower) and requires a lot of practice to develop your wind.