

Sounds of the Shofar

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Tekiah

Pronounced tuh-KEE-ah, the tekiah blast is one long note that acts as a kind of summons. Others have suggested that it is the sound of a king's coronation. On Rosh Hashanah, we are traditionally called to reaffirm God's sovereignty.

Shevarim

Pronounced shih-vah-REEM, this word literally means "breaks" or "fractures." The shevarim blast is three medium-length notes that have been compared to the sound of weeping.

T'ruah

Pronounced tih-ROO-ahh, the t'ruah blast is a series of very short, staccato sounds that have been compared to an urgent alarm, calling us to rouse from our spiritual slumber.

The three blasts are sounded in various combinations during the shofar service on Yom T'ruah (aka Rosh Hashanah). They are traditionally concluded with one long tekiah gedolah (or "great tekiah") which is similar to, but much longer than, the standard tekiah.