

Jubilee USA Shofar Prayer

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In the Torah, the *Yovel*—the Jubilee year—was marked by the sounding of the shofar on Yom Kippur (Leviticus 25:9–10). That piercing cry carried more than sound; it carried hope, freedom, and return. Land was restored, debts were released, and people found their way home again. Jubilee is a sacred reset, a reminder that our world and our lives are not our possessions but God's.

During the High Holidays, we too are summoned by the shofar to release what binds us, to restore what has been broken, and to return to the heart of our relationships—with each other, with creation, and with God. Just as the Jubilee year called Israel to a vision of justice and compassion, the sound of the shofar today calls us to imagine a society renewed, where human dignity is lifted high and the earth itself is allowed to rest.

Prayer

Ribbono shel Olam, Master of the Universe,
As the shofar sounded in ancient days to proclaim liberty,
so let its echoes awaken us now.

May we hear in its cry the call to release and forgive,
to restore and to return.

Let the piercing notes shake us from complacency
and open us to Your vision of renewal.

Teach us to live with Jubilee in our hearts:
to care for the land, to free the oppressed,
to welcome each person home to their dignity and worth.

As we move through these Days of Awe,
let the shofar remind us that true holiness
is not only in prayer and fasting,
but in justice, compassion, and love.

Amen.