

The sound of the Shofar



May the sound of the Shofar shatter our complacency,
And make us conscious of the corruptions in our lives.

*May the sound of the Shofar penetrate our souls,
And cause us to turn to our Creator in truth.*

May the sound of the Shofar break the bonds of our
enslavement to the evil impulse,
And enable us to serve the Lord with a whole heart.

*May the sound of the Shofar renew our loyalty to the
one true God,
And strengthen our determination to defy the false gods.*

May the sound of the Shofar awaken us to the enormity of
our sins,

And the vastness of God's mercy for those who truly repent.

*May the sound of the Shofar summon us to service,
And stir us to respond, as did Abraham, "Here am I."*

May the sound of the Shofar recall the moment
When we stood at Mount Sinai and uttered the promise:
"All that the Lord has spoken, we will keep and obey."

*May the sound of the Shofar recall the promise of
the ingathering of the exiles,
And stir within us renewed devotion to the Land of Israel.*

May the sound of the Shofar recall the vision of the prophets,
Of the day when all people will live in peace.

*May the sound of the Shofar awaken us to the flight of time,
And summon us to spend our days with purpose.*

May the sound of the Shofar remind us that it is time to
"Proclaim liberty throughout the land
To all the inhabitants thereof."

*May the sound of the Shofar become our jubilant shout of joy
On the day of the promised, long-awaited redemption.*

May the sound of the Shofar enter our hearts;
For blessed is the people that hearkens to its call.

Hershel J. Matt (adapted)