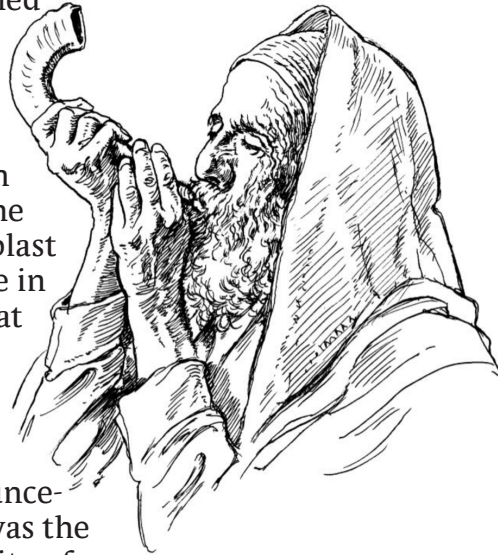


ISAIAH

A **shophar** is the horn of an animal formed into a musical instrument. The biblical shophar was a ram's horn (Josh. 6:4-13), the animal Abraham substituted for the sacrifice of his son Isaac (Gen. 22:1-14). The shophar is mentioned many times in the Bible, beginning with Exod. 19:16, the revelation at Mt. Sinai, where the loud blast of the horn caused the people to tremble in fear. The Israelites were commanded that when they entered the land God would give them, they were to proclaim the Jubilee Year with a blast of the shophar (Lev. 25:9). In the Bible, the shophar most often signifies an important announcement or a call to arms (Judg. 3:27) and was the means by which Joshua conquered the city of Jericho (Josh. 6:4-5). As an instrument, the shophar was also used as part of a musical ensemble (Ps. 98:6). In the Jerusalem Temple, the ram's horn was an integral part of the rituals. Jewish tradition, based on Isa. 27:13, maintains that the shophar will be sounded to usher in the final messianic redemption.



Gatekeepers of the Gods?

These two 18-foot-tall stone pillars stand just below the Nabataeans' High Place of Sacrifice on the summit of Jebel Madhbeh. A mountain-top courtyard sacred to the Nabataeans' greatest deities, Dushara and al-Uzza, the high place was probably the most important cultic site in Nabataean religion. No one is certain what rituals or ceremonies took place there, but the presence of several easily recognizable sacrificial altars has given the site its name.

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