



## Video 4 | 9 Elul 5784 Rabbi Michael Holzman

### **Pirkei DeRabbi Eliezer 46:2**

Rabbi Joshua, son of Korchah, said: Forty days was Moses on the mountain, reading the Written Law (Torah) by day, and studying the Oral Law by night. After the forty days he took the tablets (of the Law) and descended into the camp on the 17th of Tammuz, and he broke in pieces the tablets, and slew the sinners in Israel. He then spent forty days in the camp, until he had burnt the calf, and powdered it like the dust of the earth, and he had destroyed the idol worship from Israel, and he instituted every tribe in its place. And on the New Moon of Elul the Holy One, blessed be He, said to him: "Come up to me on the mount" (Ex. 24:12), and let them sound the Shofar (trumpet) throughout the camp, for, behold, Moses has ascended the mount, so that they do not go astray again after the worship of idols. The Holy One, blessed be He, was exalted with that Shofar, as it is said, "God is exalted with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet" (Ps. 47:5). Therefore, the sages instituted that the Shofar should be sounded on the New Moon of Elul every year.

**Reflection Question:** The legend teaches that when Moses re-ascended Mt. Sinai, after the national sin of the Golden Calf, the Israelites sounded the Shofar. How can the sound of the shofar help connect our desire for personal growth and repair, to our desire for national growth and repair?