



## Video 5 | 12 Elul 5784 Rabbi Ashley Barrett

### Babylonian Talmud, Rosh Hashanah 16a-b

[16a] Similarly, **Rabbi Abbahu said: Why does one sound a blast with a *shofar* made from a ram's horn on Rosh HaShana? The Holy One, Blessed be He, said: Sound a blast before Me with a *shofar* made from a ram's horn, so that I will remember for you the binding of Isaac, son of Abraham, in whose stead a ram was sacrificed, and I will ascribe it to you as if you had bound yourselves before Me.**

... **Rather**, Rabbi Yitzhak asked about the common practice in Jewish communities, which is not explicitly stated in the Torah: **Why does one sound a long, continuous *shofar* blast [*tekia*] and then a staccato series of *shofar* blasts [*terua*] while the congregation is still sitting before the silent prayer,**

[16b] **and then sound again a *tekia* and a *terua* while they are standing in the *Amida* prayer?** He answers: **In order to confuse the Satan**, for this double blowing of the *shofar* demonstrates Israel's love for the mitzvah, and this will confuse Satan when he brings his accusations against Israel before the heavenly court, and the Jewish people will receive a favorable judgment.

**Reflection Question:** As you reflect on the last year. Like the sounding of the Shofar is an extra sign of our love for the Jewish tradition, what blessings have you had in your life this year that you want to express extra gratitude for? What opportunities did you miss when you could have shown that extra love for something or someone?