

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 16
Sefer Shmuel & its prophetic purpose
Shmuel - A 'Prophet', a 'Judge', or a Leader?
National rebuilding after the catastrophic events at Shilo

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

I. Review – Shmuel chapters 1->7 / how & why they form a unit

Chapter 1->2

The birth of Shmuel / Chana's Prayer
 Shmuel serves at the Mishkan with Eli the High Priest in Shilo
 The sins of Eli's sons & their nature

Chapter 3->

Shmuel's first prophecy

Chapter 4->6

The war with the Philistim – the Ark of the Covenant taken captive
 The return of the Ark to Bet-Shemesh, and then to Kiryat Ye'arim

Chapter 7

The "teshuva" gathering in Mitzpe
 Summary verses

Chapter 7

א וַיָּבֹאוּ אַנְשֵׁי קִרְיַת יַעֲרִים, וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶת-אֲרוֹן יְהוָה, וַיָּבֹאוּ אֹתוֹ, אֶל-בֵּית אַבִּינָדָב בֶּגְבֵעָה; וְאֶת-אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ קִדְשׁוֹ, לְשָׁמֵר אֶת-אֲרוֹן יְהוָה. {פ}

1 And the men of Kiriath-jearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. {P}

ב וַיְהִי, מִיּוֹם שֶׁבַת הָאֲרוֹן בְּקִרְיַת יַעֲרִים, וַיִּרְבּוּ הַיָּמִים, וַיְהִיו עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה; וַיִּנְהוּ כָּל-בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל, אַחֲרֵי יְהוָה. {ס}

2 And it came to pass, from the day that the ark abode in Kiriath-jearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel yearned after the LORD. {S}

ג וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל, אֶל-כָּל-בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר, אִם-בְּכָל-לְבַבְכֶם אַתֶּם שׁוֹבִים אֶל-יְהוָה, הֲסִירוּ אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי הַנִּכָּר מִתּוֹכְכֶם וְהַעֲשִׂיתֶם רוֹת; וְהָכִינוּ לְבַבְכֶם אֶל-יְהוָה וְעַבְדֶּהוּ לְבָדוֹ, וַיִּצַּל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד פְּלִשְׁתִּים.

3 And Samuel spoke unto all the house of Israel, saying: 'If ye do return unto the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you, and direct your hearts unto the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.'

ד וַיִּסְרוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶת-הַבַּעַלִּים וְאֶת-הַעֲשִׂיתָרֹת; וַיַּעֲבָדוּ אֶת-יְהוָה, לְבָדוֹ. {פ}

4 Then the children of Israel did put away the Baalim and the Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only. {P}

ה וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל, קַבְּצוּ אֶת-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמִּצְפָּתָה; וְאֶתְפִּיל בַּעַדְכֶם, אֶל-יְהוָה.

5 And Samuel said: 'Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.'

ו וַיִּקְבְּצוּ הַמִּצְפָּתָה וַיִּשְׁאַבוּ-מַיִם וַיִּשְׁפְּכוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, וַיְצוּמוּ בַיּוֹם הַהוּא, וַיֹּאמְרוּ שָׁם, חָטְאנוּ לַיהוָה; וַיִּשְׁפֹּט שָׁמוּאֵל אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּמִּצְפָּה

6 And they gathered together to Mizpah, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there: 'We have sinned against the LORD.' And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpah.

ז וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים, כִּי-הִתְקַבְּצוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמִּצְפָּתָה, וַיַּעֲלוּ סַרְנֵי-פְּלִשְׁתִּים, אֶל-יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיִּירָאוּ מִפְּנֵי פְּלִשְׁתִּים.

7 And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

ח וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶל-שָׁמוּאֵל, אַל-תַּחַרֵּשׁ מִמֶּנּוּ, מִזְעַק אֶל-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ; וַיִּשְׁעֲנוּ, מִיַּד פְּלִשְׁתִּים.

8 And the children of Israel said to Samuel: 'Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that He save us out of the hand of the Philistines.'

ט וַיִּקַּח שָׁמוּאֵל, טֹלָה חֶלֶב אֶחָד, וַיַּעֲלֶה (וַיַּעֲלֶהוּ) עֹלָה כְּלִיל, לַיהוָה; וַיִּזְעַק שָׁמוּאֵל אֶל-יְהוָה בְּעַד יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיַּעֲנֶהוּ יְהוָה.

9 And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a whole burnt-offering unto the LORD; and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD answered him.

י וַיְהִי שָׁמוּאֵל, מַעֲלָה הַעֹלָה, וּפְלִשְׁתִּים נִגְּשׂוּ, לְמַלְחָמָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּרְעַם יְהוָה בְּקוֹל-גָּדוֹל בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא עַל-פְּלִשְׁתִּים, וַיַּהַרְסֵם, וַיִּנְגְּפוּ, לִפְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

10 And as Samuel was offering up the burnt-offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel; but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten down before Israel.

יא וַיֵּצְאוּ אַנְשֵׁי יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִן-הַמִּצְפָּה, וַיִּרְדְּפוּ, אֶת-פְּלִשְׁתִּים; וַיַּכּוּם, עַד-מִתַּחַת לְבַיִת כָּר.

11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Beth-car.

יב וַיִּקַּח שָׁמוּאֵל אֶבֶן אַחַת, וַיִּשֶׂם בֵּין-הַמִּצְפָּה וּבֵין הַשָּׁן, וַיִּקְרָא אֶת-שְׁמָהּ, אֶבֶן הָעֶזֶר; וַיֹּאמֶר, עַד-הִנֵּה עֲזָרְנוּ יְהוָה.

12 Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying: 'Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.'

יג וַיִּכְנְעוּ, הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים, וְלֹא-יָסְפוּ עוֹד, לָבוֹא בְּגְבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַתְּהִי יַד-יְהוָה בַּפְּלִשְׁתִּים, כָּל יְמֵי שָׁמוּאֵל.

13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more within the border of Israel; and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

יד וַתִּשְׁבְּנָה הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר לָקְחוּ-פְּלִשְׁתִּים מֵאֵת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, מֵעֶקְרוֹן וְעַד-גַּת, וְאֶת-גְּבוּלוֹ, הֲצִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּד פְּלִשְׁתִּים; וַיְהִי שָׁלוֹם, בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבֵין הָאֱמֹרִי.

14 And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the border thereof did Israel deliver out of the hand of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

טו וַיִּשְׁפֹּט שָׁמוּאֵל אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, כָּל יְמֵי חַיָּו.

15 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

טז וַהֲלַךְ, מִדֵּי שָׁנָה בְּשָׁנָה, וְסָבַב בֵּית-אֵל, וְהַגְּלָל וְהַמִּצְפָּה; וַשְּׁפֹט, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל--אֶת כָּל-הַמְּקוֹמוֹת, הָאֵלֶּה.

16 And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpah; and he judged Israel in all those places.

יז וַתִּשְׁבְּתוּ הָרְמָתָה כִּי-שָׁם בֵּיתוֹ, וְשָׁם שָׁפֹט אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּבֶן-שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ, לַיהוָה. { פ }

17 And his return was to Ramah, for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and he built there an altar unto the LORD.

II. The prophetic perspective on national tragedy

Discuss – tochachot in the Torah

Shirat Haazinu

Shlomo's prayer when dedicating the Temple -I Kings chapter 8

כב וַיַּעֲמֵד שְׁלֹמֹה, לְפָנָיו מִזְבַּח יְהוָה, נֹגֵד, כָּל-
קְהַל יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּפְרֹשׂ כַּפָּיו, הַשָּׁמַיִם.

22 And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven;

כג וַיֹּאמֶר, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אִין-כְּמוֹד
אֱלֹהִים, בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל, וְעַל-הָאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת:
שְׁמֵר הַבְּרִית, וְהַחֲסֵד, לְעַבְדֶּיךָ, הַהֹלְכִים לְפָנֶיךָ
בְּכָל-לִבָּם.

23 and he said: 'O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like Thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath; who keepest covenant and mercy with Thy servants, that walk before Thee with all their heart;

כד אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַרְתָּ, לְעַבְדְּךָ דָּוִד אָבִי, אֵת אֲשֶׁר-
דִּבַּרְתָּ, לוֹ; וַתְּדַבֵּר בְּפִיךָ וּבִגְדֶיךָ מִלֵּאֲתָ, כִּי־
הִזָּה.

24 who hast kept with Thy servant David my father that which Thou didst promise him; yea, Thou spokedst with Thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with Thy hand, as it is this day.

כה וְעַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, שְׁמֵר לְעַבְדְּךָ דָּוִד
אָבִי אֵת אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ לוֹ לֵאמֹר, לֹא-יִפְרֹת לְךָ
אִישׁ מִלְּפָנָי, יֹשֵׁב עַל-כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל: **רַק אַם-**
יִשְׁמְרוּ בְּנֵיךָ אֶת-דְּרָכָם, לָלֶכֶת לְפָנָי, כַּאֲשֶׁר
הִלַּכְתָּ, לְפָנָי.

25 Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, keep with Thy servant David my father that which Thou hast promised him saying: There shall not fail thee a man in My sight to sit on the throne of Israel, if only thy children take heed to their way, to walk before Me as thou hast walked before Me.

כו וְעַתָּה, אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--יִאֲמֹן נָא, דְּבַרֶיךָ
(דְּבָרְךָ), אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ, לְעַבְדְּךָ דָּוִד אָבִי.

26 Now therefore, O God of Israel, let Thy word, I pray Thee, be verified, which Thou didst speak unto Thy servant David my father.

כז כִּי, הֲאִמְנָם, יֹשֵׁב אֱלֹהִים, עַל-הָאָרֶץ; הֲנִה
הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהַשָּׁמַיִם הַשְּׁמַיִם, לֹא יִכְלְלוּךָ--אֵף, כִּי-
הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר בָּנִיתִי.

27 But will God in very truth dwell on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have builded!

כח וּפְנִיתִי אֶל-תְּפִלַּת עַבְדְּךָ, וְאֶל-תְּחִנָּתוֹ--יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵי: **לִשְׁמֹעַ אֶל-הַרְנָה וְאֶל-הַתְּפִלָּה,**
אֲשֶׁר עַבְדְּךָ מִתְּפִלֵּל לְפָנֶיךָ הַיּוֹם.

28 Yet have Thou respect unto the prayer of Thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which Thy servant prayeth before Thee this day;

כט לְהִיּוֹת עֵינֶיךָ פְּתוּחֹת אֶל-הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה, לַיְלָה
וַיּוֹם, אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם, אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתָּ יְהוָה שְׁמִי שָׁם--
לִשְׁמֹעַ, אֶל-הַתְּפִלָּה, אֲשֶׁר יִתְּפִלֵּל עַבְדְּךָ, אֶל-
הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה.

29 that Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place whereof Thou hast said: My name shall be there; to hearken unto the prayer which Thy servant shall pray toward this place.

ל וּשְׁמַעְתָּ אֶל-תְּחִנַּת עַבְדְּךָ, וְעַמֶּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר
יִתְּפִלְלוּ, אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה; וְאַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע אֶל-
מָקוֹם שְׁבִתְךָ, אֶל-הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְשָׁמַעְתָּ, וְסָלַחְתָּ.

30 And hearken Thou to the supplication of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place; yea, hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling-place; and when Thou hearest, forgive.

לא אֵת אֲשֶׁר יַחֲטֵא אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ, וְנָשָׂא-בוֹ אָלָה
לְהַאֲלֹתוֹ; וּבָא, אָלָה לְפָנָיו מִזְבַּחְךָ--בַּבַּיִת הַזֶּה.

31 If a man sin against his neighbour, and an oath be exacted of him to cause him to swear, and he come and swear before Thine altar in this house;

לב וְאַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְעָשִׂיתָ וְשִׁפְטָתָ אֶת-
עַבְדֶּיךָ--לְהַרְשִׁיעַ רָשָׁע, לְתֵת דְרָכּוֹ בְּרֹאשׁוֹ;
וּלְהַצְדִּיק צַדִּיק, לְתֵת לוֹ כְּצַדִּיקוֹ.
32 then hear Thou in heaven, and do, and judge Thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his own head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

לג בְּהִנָּגַף עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְפָנַי אוֹיֵב--אֲשֶׁר יַחְטְאוּ-לָךָ; וְשָׁבוּ אֵלֶיךָ וְהוֹדוּ אֶת-שְׁמִי, וְהִתְפַּלְלוּ וְהִתְחַנְּנוּ אֵלֶיךָ בְּבַיִת הַזֶּה.
33 When Thy people Israel are smitten down before the enemy, when they do sin against Thee, if they turn again to Thee, and confess Thy name, and pray and make supplication unto Thee in this house;

לד וְאַתָּה, תִּשְׁמַע הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְסָלַחְתָּ, לַחַטָּאת עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְהִשְׁבַּתְתָּם, אֶל-הָאָדָמָה, אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּ, לְאֲבוֹתָם. {ס}
34 then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy people Israel, and bring them back unto the land which Thou gavest unto their fathers. {S}

לה בְּהֶעָצַר שָׁמַיִם וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה מָטָר, כִּי יַחְטְאוּ-לָךָ; וְהִתְפַּלְלוּ אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה, וְהוֹדוּ אֶת-שְׁמִי, וּמַחְטָאתָם יִשׁוּבוּ, כִּי תַעֲנֶם.
35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, when they do sin against Thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess Thy name, and turn from their sin, when Thou dost afflict them;

לו וְאַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְסָלַחְתָּ לַחַטָּאת עַבְדֶּיךָ וְעַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל--כִּי תוֹרַם אֶת-הַדֶּרֶךְ הַטּוֹבָה, אֲשֶׁר יָלְכוּ-בָהּ; וְנָתַתָּה מָטָר עַל-אֲרָצְךָ, אֲשֶׁר-נָתַתָּה לְעַמְּךָ לְנַחֲלָה. {ס}
36 then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy servants, and of Thy people Israel, when Thou teachest them the good way wherein they should walk; and send rain upon Thy land, which Thou hast given to Thy people for an inheritance. {S}

לז רָעַב כִּי-יִהְיֶה בָאָרֶץ, דָּבָר כִּי-יִהְיֶה שְׂדֵפוֹן יִרְקוֹן אֲרָבָה חֲסִיל כִּי יִהְיֶה, כִּי יֵצֵר-לוֹ אִיבוֹ, בָּאָרֶץ שְׁעָרָיו--כָּל-נֶגַע, כָּל-מַחֲלָה.
37 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting or mildew, locust or caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be;

לח כָּל-תְּפִלָּה כָּל-תְּחִנָּה, אֲשֶׁר תִּהְיֶה לְכָל-הָאָדָם, לְכָל, עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל--אֲשֶׁר יִדְעוּן, אִישׁ נֶגַע לְבָבוֹ, וּפְרַשׁ כַּפָּיו, אֶל-הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה.
38 what prayer and supplication soever be made by any man of all Thy people Israel, who shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house;

לט וְאַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע הַשָּׁמַיִם מִכּוֹן שְׁבִתְךָ, וְסָלַחְתָּ וְעָשִׂיתָ, וְנָתַתָּ לְאִישׁ כְּכָל-דְרָכּוֹ, אֲשֶׁר תִּדְעֵ אֶת-לְבָבוֹ : כִּי-אַתָּה יִדְעָתָ לְבַדְּךָ, אֶת-לְבַב כָּל-בְּנֵי הָאָדָם.
39 then hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling-place, and forgive, and do, and render unto every man according to all his ways, whose heart Thou knowest--for Thou, even Thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men--

מ לְמַעַן, יִרְאוּךָ, כָּל-הַיָּמִים, אֲשֶׁר-הֵם חַיִּים עַל-פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה--אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה, לְאֲבֹתֵינוּ.
40 that they may fear Thee all the days that they live in the land which Thou gavest unto our fathers.

III. Bamidbar chapter 10 - Trumpets in times of peril

ח וּבְנֵי אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֲנִים, יִתְקַעוּ בַּחֲצָצְרוֹת; וְהָיוּ לְכֶם לְחֻקַּת עוֹלָם, לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם.
8 And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for a statute for ever throughout your generations.

ט וְכִי-תֵבֹאוּ מִלְחָמָה בְּאֲרָצְכֶם, עַל-הַצָּר הַצָּר אֲתָכֶם--וְהִרְעַתְתֶם, בַּחֲצָצְרוֹת; וְנִזְכַּרְתֶּם, לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, וְנוֹשַׁעְתֶּם, מֵאִיְבֵיכֶם.
9 And when ye go to war in your land against the adversary that oppresseth you, then ye shall sound an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your appointed seasons, and in your new moons, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt-offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace-offerings; and they shall be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.¹

י וּבְיוֹם שְׂמֵחַתְכֶם וּבְמוֹעֲדֵיכֶם, וּבְרָאִשֵׁי חֲדָשֵׁיכֶם - וּתְקַעְתֶּם בַּחֲצֹצְרוֹת עַל עֲלֹתֵיכֶם, וְעַל זְבָחֵי שְׁלָמֵיכֶם; וְהָיוּ לָכֶם לְזִכָּרוֹן לְפָנַי אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם. {פ}

IV. Rambam – Law of Fasting [Taanit] - chapter 1

מְצֻוֹת עֲשֵׂה מִן הַתּוֹרָה לְזַעַק וּלְהַרְיֵעַ בַּחֲצוֹצְרוֹת עַל כָּל צָרָה שְׁתָּבוֹא עַל הַצִּבּוֹר. שְׁנֵאמַר (בַּמִּדְבָר י ט) "עַל הַצָּר הַצָּר אֶתְכֶם וְהִרְעַתְּם בַּחֲצֹצְרוֹת". כָּלוּמַר כָּל דְּבָר שֶׁיֵּצֵר לָכֶם כְּגוֹן בְּצִרְתָּ וּדְבָר וְאֶרְבֵּה וְכִיּוֹצֵא בָהֶן זַעְקוּ עֲלֵיהֶן וְהִרְיֵעוּ:

It is a positive Torah commandment to cry out and to sound trumpets in the event of any difficulty that arises which affects the community, as [Numbers 10:9] states: "[When you go out to war... against] an enemy who attacks you and you sound the trumpets...."

[This commandment is not restricted to such a limited scope; rather] the intent is: Whenever you are distressed by difficulties - e.g., famine, plague, locusts, or the like - cry out [to God] because of them and sound the trumpets.

וְדָבָר זֶה מִדְּרָכֵי הַתְּשׁוּבָה הוּא. שְׁבִזְמַן שְׁתָּבוֹא צָרָה וְיִזְעָקוּ עֲלֶיהָ וְיַרְיֵעוּ יָדְעוּ הַכֹּל שֶׁבְגִלָּל מַעֲשֵׂיהֶם הָרָעִים הוֹרַע לָהֶן כְּפִתּוּב (יִרְמִיָּה ה כה) "עֲוֹנוֹתֵיכֶם הִטּוּ" וְגו'. וְזֶה הוּא שֶׁיִּגְרַם לָהֶם לְהִסִּיר הַצָּרָה מֵעֲלֵיהֶם:

This practice is one of the paths of repentance, for when a difficulty arises, and the people cry out [to God] and sound the trumpets, everyone will realize that [the difficulty] occurred because of their evil conduct, as [Jeremiah 5:25] states: "Your sins have turned away [the rains and the harvest climate]." This [realization] will cause the removal of this difficulty.

אָבָל אִם לֹא יִזְעָקוּ וְלֹא יַרְיֵעוּ אֶלָּא יֵאמְרוּ דְבָר זֶה מִמְּנַהֲג הָעוֹלָם אֲרַע לָנוּ וְצָרָה זֹו נִקְרָה נִקְרִית. הָרִי זֹו דְרָף אֶכְזָרִיּוֹת וְגוֹרְמֵת לָהֶם לְהִצְדִּיק בְּמַעֲשֵׂיהֶם הָרָעִים. וְתוֹסִיף הַצָּרָה צָרוֹת אַחֲרוֹת. הוּא שֶׁכְּפִתּוּב בַּתּוֹרָה (וִיקְרָא כו כז) "וְהִלַּכְתֶּם עִמִּי בְּקָרִי" (וִיקְרָא כו כח) "וְהִלַּכְתִּי גַם אֲנִי עִמָּכֶם בְּחַמַּת קָרִי". כָּלוּמַר כְּשֶׁאָבִיא עֲלֵיכֶם צָרָה כְּדִי שֶׁתְּשׁוּבוּ אִם תֵּאמְרוּ שֶׁהִיא קָרִי אִוְסִיף לָכֶם חַמַּת אוֹתוֹ קָרִי:

Conversely, should the people fail to cry out [to God] and sound the trumpets, and instead say, "What has happened to us is merely a natural phenomenon and this difficulty is merely a chance occurrence," this is a cruel conception of things, which causes them to remain attached to their wicked deeds. Thus, this time of distress will lead to further distresses.