



## B'HAALOT'CHA

Our sedra this week includes the instruction to fashion the chatzotzrot—two silver trumpets that should be used to assemble the entire nation. They are sounded by AhAron and his sons, the kohanim. The chatzotzrot are to be sounded should we need to wage war and for other occasions when the entire nation must be summoned.

The Torah tells us: And on the day of your joy, and on your festivals and at the beginning of each month you shall sound the trumpets....”

Our commentators are puzzled by the apparent redundancy in the opening of this verse - the days of our joy and our festivals and Rosh Chodesh. The Mo'adim, festivals are generally associated to be days of simcha, there is an actual mitzva of 'v'samachta b'chagecha' - to rejoice on the festivals. So what is our verse referring to when it mentions 'uvyom simchatchem' - the days of your joy?

The Sifrei suggests that 'uvyom simchatchem' is referring to Shabbatot - that even though there is no specific mitzva to rejoice on Shabbat, one certainly should feel happiness on Shabbat.

The Ibn Ezra suggests that this is actually an instruction that whenever the Jewish People have merited to return to Eretz Yisrael from a foreign land, or whenever the Jewish People have experienced salvation through overcoming an oppressive enemy ruler, that we are to establish days of joy to give thanks and recall this miraculous salvation as in the days of Purim.

Rav Shlomo Aviner in his sefer 'Tal Chermon', points to this Ibn Ezra to suggest that there is an absolute obligation to establish such commemorations, including both Yom HaAtzma'ut and Yom Yerushalayim as well.

May we continue to experience as a nation moments of great joy, and may we soon merit to sound both the silver trumpets and the Great Shofar as we greet Mashiach Tzidkaynu...