

“Forget Physics”

By Rabbi David Wolpe

As Israel stood around Mount Sinai, “the blare of the horn grew louder and louder.” (Ex. 20:19) Rabbi Israel Levinthal noted many years ago the violation of the laws of physics: sounds fade over time, they do not grow stronger.

The sound at Sinai was heard at first by a small band of newly freed slaves in a desert. Surely it would fade, as such declarations and experiences inevitably do. How improbable that the sounds of the *shofar*, the ram’s horn, in the isolation of the desert grew to be a rallying call for humanity?

We are thousands of years from that moment. In the intervening centuries there have been countless efforts, some through indifference, many marked by savagery, to mute the sound of Sinai. But Rabbi Levinthal’s observation still holds: throughout the generations the voice of the shofar, *Holech V’hazek Meod*, has grown louder and louder still. The defiant blare exists as the counterpoint to the still, sad music of humanity; it is the promise of something greater and grander than we can imagine. That shofar is the instrument of a people who have discovered God. It resounds with the promise of a world that is often anguished but never alone.