



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

An Answer That Feels Like Silence: Morning Is Coming, But It's Still Dark

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Isaiah 21:1-12; Rev. 18:2, 4; Ps. 94:17; Gen. 25:13-15; 2 Pet. 3-13; Heb. 13:5

Have you ever prayed and felt like the answer you received was... silence? Not rejection, not anger—just something that sounds like a non-answer? That's exactly what Isaiah 21:11-12 feels like. The watchman gives an answer that doesn't quite satisfy the one asking: *"Morning is coming... but it's still night."* It's an answer that acknowledges hope, but also acknowledges that the darkness is not over yet.

Isaiah has been walking us through the burdens against the nations—the burden of the desert by the sea, the collapse of Babylon, the futility of trusting in alliances that can never save. God has been urging His people not to trust in Babylon, or Edom, or any coalition of nations. The alliances they cling to for protection—all of them fall. The ambassador routes through Duma, the plans for rebellion—none of them offer true security. Only Adonai can be trusted. And now, in the burden of Duma—which also means silence—we hear a question from Edom:

"Watchman, what is left of the night?" How long will this darkness last? Are we almost through it? When will morning finally dawn? And the answer? *"Morning is coming... but it's still night. If you want to ask again, ask. But come back with repentance."* It feels like a non-answer. But it's actually the answer—an invitation to keep coming back to Him, to wait faithfully in the dark, to trust that morning *is* coming, even when we can't see it yet.

1. OUR HEART CRIES, "HOW LONG?" AND SOMETIMES GOD'S ANSWER FEELS LIKE SILENCE

The people coming from Seir—Edom—are desperate. They're asking the *shomer*, the night guard, "How much longer? What is left of this night?" The repetition reveals the exhaustion: *"Watchman, what is left of the night? Watchman, what is left of the night?"* Have you ever been there? When every minute in the dark feels like an hour? Isaiah describes that long night with honesty—the dread, the pain, the uncertainty. Darkness creeps slowly when you're hurting. Like when I had those gallbladder attacks—long nights with no relief, praying for the morning. And the answer felt delayed. The minutes dragged. The pain intensified. I wondered, "When will this end?" That's the cry coming up from Edom.

And God's response? "Morning is coming... it really is. But it's still dark right now." It's not the answer we want. We want God to act immediately and dramatically. But sometimes God gives a word that feels like silence. Not because He's absent, but because the plan is still unfolding in the dark. We ask: "How long will this season last?"; "How long until breakthrough comes?"; "How long until You move?"

The answer is not "never." The answer is, "Morning is coming." But right now...it's still night.

2. GOD CALLS US TO KEEP ASKING... AND TO COME BACK WITH REPENTANCE

The watchman says something surprising: *"If you would inquire, inquire; come back again."* Ask again. Keep coming back. Keep seeking. But the phrase "come back" has a deeper meaning—*shuvu*—repent. Turn around. Return.

It's not that God refuses to give a timeline. It's that God uses the darkness to shape us. Peter says in 2 Peter 3 that people will scoff in the last days and say, "Where is the promise of His coming? Everything is the same as it's always been!" But Peter says God isn't slow. He's *patient*. He's

giving space for repentance. He is long-suffering so more people can turn to Him. When we come asking “How long?” God says, “Keep asking... but come to Me with a heart that’s being shaped, softened, surrendered. Come back repenting.”

God’s perceived slowness is His mercy. God’s silence is often His formation. God’s delay is often His kindness toward you and others. You want the morning to come—but God wants your heart to be transformed in the night. You want relief—but God wants repentance. You want an answer—but God wants relationship. So He says: “Ask again. Come again. And come back with repentance.”

3. MORNING WILL COME... BUT UNTIL THEN, WALK IN HOLINESS AND HOPE

The watchman gives the only answer he’s allowed to give: “*Morning is coming.*” He cannot lie. He cannot make up a word. He cannot give specifics. He only declares what he sees—which is exactly what we are called to do. We don’t manufacture prophetic answers. We don’t pretend to know God’s secrets. We don’t declare timelines when heaven hasn’t revealed them. We can say with confidence: Yeshua is coming. Hope is coming. God is making all things new.

But the timing? Still dark. Peter says a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like a day. God’s timetable is not ours. So what do we do while we wait? Peter answers: “*Live lives of holiness and godliness, looking for and hastening His coming.*” In other words— Don’t stop walking in obedience just because the night feels long. Don’t live like the morning will never arrive. Walk in holiness. Walk in love. Walk in repentance. Walk in hope. Morning is coming—guaranteed. But we must continue faithfully in the darkness until the dawn breaks.

CONCLUSION

This burden of *Duma*—this burden of silence—teaches us something important: God often answers in ways that feel like silence. “Morning is coming, but it’s still night.” We want clarity; God offers hope. We want timelines; God offers transformation. We want immediacy; God offers patience.

It is not a non-answer. It is the answer. Because the point is not the timing—the point is the trusting. The point is the returning. The point is the endurance that is formed in the night. *Morning is coming.* But while it’s still dark, keep asking. Keep returning. Keep repenting. Keep walking with Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you felt like God’s answer to your prayer was “silence”? What did that season produce in you?
2. Why do you think God invites us to “ask again” rather than giving immediate clarity?
3. How does recognizing God’s patience in 2 Peter 3 reshape the way you view long seasons of waiting?
4. What does it look like to “come back with repentance” while asking “How long?”
5. What is one area of your life where you need to walk in holiness while you wait for the morning?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, we call out to You from the midst of our night seasons. We confess that we grow weary, impatient, and discouraged. But You remind us that morning is coming, even when it’s still dark. Give us strength to wait faithfully, courage to ask again, humility to return with repentance, and hope that holds onto Your promises. Shape us in the darkness. Purify our hearts. Teach us to trust You when we cannot see. And let the dawn of Your presence break through in Your perfect timing. In Yeshua’s name—Amen.