



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **"The Answer May Feel Delayed, but God Is Already Working"**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

#### **Key Texts: Psalms 142, 22**

Sometimes God feels late. Sometimes the answer to prayer feels delayed, almost forgotten. Maybe you've cried out for healing, deliverance, or help, and it seemed like the heavens were silent. David knew what that felt like. Yeshua Himself expressed it on the cross. And Mary and Martha said it outright when their brother Lazarus died: *"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."*

But what feels like delay is not abandonment. What feels like silence is not absence. The Scriptures remind us that even when we don't see Him moving, He is already at work. Today, let's look at three places in Scripture—the cave of David in *Psalms 142*, the cry of the cross in *Psalms 22* and *Mark 15*, and the tomb of Lazarus in *John 11*. Together they declare this truth: the answer may feel delayed, but God is already working.

#### **1. FROM THE CAVE—GOD HEARS YOUR CRY (Psalm 142)**

David was literally hiding in a cave when he prayed, *"I cry aloud with my voice to Adonai... I pour out my complaint before Him; before Him I tell my trouble"* (Psalm 142:2–3, TLV). Notice he didn't stay silent. He didn't pretend everything was fine. He poured it out. That word "complaint" means more than just venting—it means opening up the thoughts and emotions swirling inside and laying them bare before God's face.

David admits, *"No one cares for my soul. I have no refuge"* (v. 5). That's raw loneliness. That's the ache of looking around and realizing you have no right-hand friend, no place of safety. But in the very same prayer, he declares: *"You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living"* (v. 6). What a shift—from isolation to intimacy, from despair to trust.

This shows us that crying out isn't weakness—it's faith. Crying out says, "I still believe You hear me, even if I can't see You moving yet." And here's the truth: when David felt surrounded, God was already preparing deliverance. What felt delayed wasn't wasted time. The cave became a classroom where David learned to trust God as his only refuge.

Maybe you're in a cave season right now—overwhelmed, faint in spirit, wondering if God has forgotten you. Friend, He hasn't. Cry out. Pour it out. He hears. The delay does not mean He's absent. It means He's already working a way through the darkness.

#### **2. GOD'S SILENCE DOESN'T MEAN HIS ABSENCE (Ps 22; Mk 15)**

Psalms 22 opens with words of agony: *"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Distant from my salvation are the words of my groaning"* (v. 2). These are the very words Yeshua spoke on the cross (Mark 15:34). Why would He choose this psalm in His final moments? Because He was stepping into our human experience of feeling abandoned.

David in this psalm swings between despair and trust: *“I cry out by day but You do not answer... yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel”* (vv. 3–4). Do you hear the tension? *I know what I feel*—forsaken. *I know what I believe*—God is faithful. That’s the roller coaster of faith in suffering.

And yet, the psalm makes a declaration of truth: *“He has not despised the suffering of the lowly one, nor has He hidden His face from him. But when he cried to Him, He heard”* (v. 25). What felt like silence was not God turning away. It was God working salvation in the unseen. At the cross, what looked like the Father’s absence was actually the Father accomplishing the greatest rescue in history.

So when you feel like God is far off, when the answer to prayer feels unbearably delayed—hold on. His silence doesn’t mean His absence. What feels like delay may actually be the very stage where He is already working redemption.

### **3. AT THE TOMB—HE WEEPS, AND HE WORKS (John 11)**

Nowhere do we see the tension of delay more clearly than in John 11. Lazarus is sick. His sisters send word to Yeshua, but He delays. Lazarus dies. By the time Yeshua arrives, both Mary and Martha say the same thing: *“Master, if You had been here, my brother would not have died”* (vv. 21, 32). That’s the cry of disappointment, the pain of a delayed answer. But what does Yeshua do? He doesn’t shame them. He doesn’t rebuke them. He doesn’t explain away their pain. Instead, *“Yeshua wept”* (v. 35). Think about that—He knew He was about to raise Lazarus. He knew resurrection was minutes away. Yet He still wept. Why? Because their grief mattered to Him. Their pain touched Him. Their tears were not dismissed—they were shared.

This is who He is: the God who knows the ending but still walks with you through the middle. The God who holds the resurrection power in His hands but still sits in the valley with you, weeping. The God whose delay isn’t neglect but purpose. He was already working—preparing to reveal His glory, strengthen their faith, and show that He is the Resurrection and the Life. So if you feel like the answer hasn’t come, if it seems God has delayed—remember, He still weeps with you. He still enters your pain. And He is already working resurrection behind the scenes.

### **CONCLUSION**

From David’s cave, to Yeshua’s cross, to Lazarus’s tomb, the story repeats itself: God may feel delayed, but He’s never absent. His timing is not ours. His silence is not neglect. His tears are proof of His compassion, and His resurrection power is proof of His faithfulness. So don’t give up in the cave. Don’t despair at the cross. Don’t lose hope at the tomb. The answer may feel delayed, but God is already working.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think God allows us to experience seasons where His answer feels delayed?
2. What can we learn from David’s honesty in Psalm 142 about how to pray in our own caves?

3. How does Yeshua quoting Psalm 22 on the cross encourage you in your own feelings of abandonment?
4. What does Yeshua weeping in John 11 teach us about God's heart toward our pain?
5. How can you comfort someone else who feels like God's answer has been delayed in their life?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Abba, we thank You that even when the answer feels delayed, You are already working. Thank You for hearing our cries in the cave, for being present even when You feel far, and for weeping with us in our grief. Strengthen our faith to hold fast in the waiting. Help us to trust Your timing and to believe that Your purposes are good. And make us people who, like Yeshua, can enter into the pain of others with compassion and hope.

In Yeshua's name, Amen.