



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Why Hasn't Yeshua Returned Yet?

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Devotion and Discussin Questions

Key Texts: 2 Pet. 3:8-9; Ps.. 90:1-4; Ex. 34:6-8; Num. 14:17-19; Joel 2:12-14; 1 Tim. 2:1-4

sometimes we look around at our world and we ask, *"Lord, what's taking so long?"* From the earliest days of faith, believers have wrestled with the promise of Yeshua's return. In Peter's time, scoffers mocked, saying, *"Where is the promise of His coming? Everything goes on as it always has."* (2 Peter 3:4). Some were sincerely confused, while others willfully shut their eyes to the truth. Peter writes with "midday clarity" to steady shaken believers and point us back to the firm foundation of God's Word. Today we'll look at 2 Peter 3:8-9, and we'll see three truths: first, God's timing is not our timing; second, God's delay is not hesitation but mercy; and third, His patience is a space for salvation.

1. GOD'S TIMING IS NOT OUR TIMING

Peter begins with a reminder: *"But don't forget this one thing, loved ones—that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day"* (2 Peter 3:8 TLV). This isn't a math formula; it's a perspective shift. Our view of time is small and limited. For a child, a year feels like forever, but for someone older, decades can seem to fly by. How much more for the Eternal One, the God who was and is and is to come?

Psalm 90, a prayer of Moses, gives us that same perspective: *"For a thousand years in Your sight are like a day just passing by, or like a watch in the night"* (Psalm 90:4). God doesn't measure time the way we do. What feels long to us may be a blink to Him. This should steady our hearts. Instead of being rattled by scoffers who say, *"Where is He?"* we fix our eyes on the God who keeps His promises on His timetable, not ours. It's not that He's forgotten. It's that His clock doesn't tick the way ours does. So Peter says: don't let what has escaped the notice of scoffers escape your notice too. Lift your eyes above your momentary perspective and see with God's eyes. His timing is always perfect.

2. GOD'S DELAY IS ROOTED IN HIS CHARACTER

Verse 9 goes deeper: *"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some consider slowness. Rather, He is being patient toward you—not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). What looks like slowness to us is not hesitation, and it's not procrastination. The word Peter uses is tied to God's character—*slow to anger* (Exodus 34:6). God holds His wrath at a distance. He is makrothumeo—long-tempered, patient, giving space.

Think about Jonah, angry at God's mercy toward Nineveh. Jonah sat under a plant waiting for judgment fireworks. But God reminded him: *"Should I not have compassion on this great city?"* (Jonah 4:11). Or think of Moses interceding for Israel in Numbers 14, appealing to God's own words: *"Adonai is slow to anger and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression"* (v.18). God's seeming "delay" is not slowness—it's love. Every day He withholds judgment, He's revealing His character. What frustrates us when we want Him to hurry is actually evidence of His goodness.

3. GOD'S PATIENCE IS A SPACE FOR SALVATION

Peter shows us the purpose of this patience: *"not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). God is giving space—time for people to change their minds, to turn around, to repent. Think about your own life. How many chances did He give you before you surrendered fully to Him? His patience brought you in. And now He calls us to share that same heart. Rather than demanding God "hurry up," we intercede like Abraham did for Sodom, pleading for mercy. We pray like Paul urged in 1 Timothy 2:1–4—for all people, for leaders, because God "desires all men to be saved and come into the knowledge of the truth."

Every day the Lord tarries is another day for someone to step out of darkness into light. It's another lifeboat moment—room for another soul to climb in before the flood of judgment comes. His patience is not an excuse for complacency, but a call to urgency in prayer, in witness, in love. The Lord's delay is salvation. His patience is not weakness; it's strength. It is His mercy giving us time to bring more people into the ark of Messiah.

CONCLUSION

Loved ones, scoffers may mock, and doubts may arise, but God's Word is clear: His timing is not ours, His delay is not hesitation, and His patience is salvation. The heart of God is that none should perish. And the reason you and I are here today—breathing, believing, saved—is because He waited for us. So how do we live in the in-between? We trust His timing, reflect His patience, and join His mission. We stand in the gap for others. And we don't let confusion or delay shake us, but anchor ourselves in His Word and His character.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Peter compares God's timing to "a thousand years as one day"?
2. How does remembering God's character as "slow to anger" change the way we view His patience?
3. In what ways has God's patience impacted your own journey of faith?
4. How should believers respond while we wait for Yeshua's return?
5. Who in your life might be waiting for the space God is giving them—and how can you partner with Him in reaching them?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba Father, we thank You that You are not slow as some think of slowness, but that You are patient, gracious, and merciful. Thank You for waiting for us, for giving us time to turn, for bringing us into Your salvation. Forgive us for our impatience, for the times we demand You to move on our schedule. Shape our hearts to reflect Yours—that we would intercede, love, and share the good news with urgency. We pray for our families, our neighbors, and our nation: let none perish, Lord, but draw all to repentance. Strengthen us to live faithfully while we wait for Yeshua's return.

In Yeshua's name, amen.