



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **“Devoured or Delivered? How to Stand When You’re Under Attack”**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Texts:** 1 Pet 5:7-9; 1 Pet. 1:13; 2:11; 2:21-23; 3:9; 4:1, 4:7; Phil. 4:6-7; Col. 3:2; Heb. 12:2-4; James 4:7; Job 1-2

There’s a moment every believer faces when it feels like all the weight of injustice, anxiety, and spiritual pressure threatens to crush you. When what’s happening around you—or inside of you—makes you wonder: “Am I going to make it through this? Will I be devoured... or delivered?” That’s what Peter is addressing in this short but loaded passage. These early believers had lost homes, status, jobs—and in some cases, relationships—because of their faith in Yeshua. They were suffering unjustly and being tested deeply.

But Peter doesn’t just give them sympathy. He gives them a battle plan. Right here in verses 7–9, he gives us a three-fold strategy for spiritual survival and victory under attack. He calls us to throw off what burdens us, wake up to what threatens us, and stand strong in what roots us. How do you stand firm when the enemy is roaring and your world feels shaken?

### **1. THROW YOUR ANXIETIES TO HIM—BECAUSE HE CARES (1 Peter 5:7)**

*“Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.”* The first thing Peter tells us is to cast—not carry—our anxieties. The word he uses implies a sudden, deliberate throwing—like dumping a heavy load off your back. These believers had good reasons to feel anxious: they had lost rights, security, and peace. But Peter doesn’t say, “Just deal with it.” He says, “Get rid of it—but throw it in the right direction.” Don’t internalize it. Don’t suppress it. Don’t weaponize it. Throw it on the only One who can actually carry it: Yeshua. Why? Because He cares. And Peter uses a beautiful word here: *He is concerned about you*. Not just globally or generically. He’s personally invested in your suffering.

Holding onto anxiety is often a form of control. It’s our way of trying to manage the unknown, the unfair, and the painful. But Peter reminds us that God is not just watching from a distance—He’s involved. He’s near. His heart is wrapped around your pain. If we’re going to survive spiritual pressure, we have to let go of the weight we were never meant to carry. The enemy wants you to feel crushed. But deliverance begins the moment you throw your burden onto the shoulders of the One who was already crushed for you.

### **2. WAKE UP—THE ENEMY IS ON THE HUNT (1 Peter 5:8)**

*“Stay alert! Watch out! Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, searching for someone to devour.”* Once you’ve cast your cares, don’t check out—wake up. Peter now calls us to spiritual alertness. The word here for “stay alert” is a military term—a call to battle stations. Why? Because you have an adversary. He’s not just annoying; he’s dangerous. He’s not just prowling; he’s roaring. He’s not just curious; he’s hungry. The enemy isn’t passive—he’s aggressive, investigative, and opportunistic. He’s looking for weakness, distraction, discouragement—anything that leaves you vulnerable.

Peter calls the enemy the *antidikos*—the one against your justice. The one who falsely accuses. And if you’re asleep to that reality—if you’re numbed by fear or distracted by passion—you’ll be devoured before you even realize you were in danger. That’s why Peter says to stay sober-minded. That doesn’t just mean not drunk. It means clear-headed. Steady. Unclouded by revenge or despair. Because when your heart is inflamed with fear or fury, you

lose sight of who you are and what God is doing. But when you stay awake, you can recognize the enemy's tactics and refuse to fall for them.

### **3. STAND FIRM—AND KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE (1 Peter 5:9)**

*"Stand up against him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being laid upon your brothers and sisters throughout the world."* The final instruction in this passage is powerful and practical: don't back down—**stand up**. You don't stand in your feelings. You don't stand in your pride. You stand in your faith—in what you believe to be true about God, even when nothing around you looks like it. This isn't passive endurance—it's active resistance. The Greek word used here—*antistēmi*—is the same word used in James 4:7: *"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* Peter's saying, "You don't have to run. You don't have to bow. You stand."

And you don't do it alone. The lie the enemy whispers is, "You're the only one going through this. You're isolated. You're abandoned." But Peter says, "No—you're part of a global Body that is enduring the same pressure." That reminder does two things: it lifts our eyes in solidarity, and it refocuses our perspective on what God is forming in us. We're not just surviving—we're being refined. When you stand in faith, you are not just enduring—you are participating in God's global, redemptive work. You're proving that your faith isn't based on comfort, but on covenant.

### **CONCLUSION**

When life is shaking, when accusations are flying, when anxiety is rising—Peter says you have three options: cast it, wake up, and stand firm. That's how we move from being devoured by fear to being delivered by faith. That's how we resist the roar of the enemy without losing our peace or our purpose. So the question today is not just, "What are you going through?" but "How are you responding?" Will you clutch your burdens or cast them? Will you sleep through the battle or stay alert? Will you retreat or rise and stand?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What kinds of anxieties or burdens have you been tempted to carry alone? What makes it difficult to cast them onto Yeshua?
2. What does "spiritual alertness" look like in your daily life? What habits help you stay awake to God's presence and the enemy's schemes?
3. How have you personally experienced the enemy's attempts to "devour" your peace, hope, or identity? How did you respond?
4. Why do you think Peter connects standing firm in faith with remembering that others around the world are suffering too? How does that shift your perspective?
5. What specific step can you take this week to practice one of these three commands: casting your cares, staying alert, or standing firm?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Abba, We come to You as Your children—sometimes weary, sometimes confused, sometimes on the edge of being devoured by fear or frustration. But today, we choose to trust You again. We cast every anxiety onto You, knowing You care for us. Forgive us for trying to carry what only You can hold.

Help us to be alert—to recognize the lies of the enemy, to stay awake in prayer, and to guard our minds with truth. Fill us with courage to stand firm in our faith. Let our roots go deep into You, even when the winds of suffering rage. Remind us we are not alone. Strengthen us as a Body, and help us endure with joy until the day of Your return.

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amen.