



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

**"Awake! The Arm of the LORD is Revealed!"**

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

## **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Texts:** **Is 51:12-52:12**; *Ezek 11:16; Ex. 6:6; 19:5-6; Dt. 10:12, 16; Jer. 4:4; Rev. 21:25-27*

As we enter the season leading up to the High Holy Days, Scripture calls us into a time of repentance, reflection, and anticipation. Just as the month of Elul prepares us for the seventh month of Tishri, with its trumpet blasts, atonement, and tabernacles, so too does Isaiah prepare us for God's consolation after judgment. The voice of the prophets first rebukes, then consoles, reminding us that rebuke is never God's final word. His intention is restoration.

The shofar, blown each morning of Elul, symbolizes God's voice—startling us from complacency and stirring us to repentance. Just as in Israel today sirens demand an urgent response, the shofar demands that we awaken spiritually. God does not merely want us to hear the echo of His Word; He wants it to pierce our hearts, shaping our repentance and response. We are called not simply to mourn ruins of stone but to recognize when His presence has departed and return to Him as our sanctuary. In these days of preparation, do not let God's Word echo faintly. Let it pierce your heart.

### **1. AWAKE, O ARM OF THE LORD! (Is. 51:9-10)**

Israel cries out for the Arm of the LORD to awaken, remembering His mighty acts in the past. They recall how He cut Rahab (Egypt), pierced the dragon, and dried up the sea so the redeemed could pass through. This cry is a prayer rooted in remembrance. "Do it again, Lord!" becomes the song of those who have seen His saving power before. It is a call that arises from faith, not forgetfulness.

Yet, the cry to awaken the LORD is not because He sleeps, but because His people forget. He has never ceased to act, but He calls us to look back at His faithfulness and trust Him for today. Exodus reminds us that He redeemed Israel with an "outstretched arm." That same arm has not weakened. What God has done before, He can and will do again. Look back at God's faithfulness in your life. Call on Him to "do it again," and let remembrance strengthen your trust for today's battles.

### **2. AWAKE, MY PEOPLE, FROM YOUR STUPOR! (Isaiah 51:17-52:2)**

The cry for God's arm to awaken is answered with a startling command: it is not the LORD who must awaken, but His people. "*Awake, awake! Stand up, Jerusalem!*" (Is. 51:17). Israel had drunk deeply from the cup of His wrath, left staggering in a spiritual stupor with no leaders or sons to guide her. None of her kings or prophets sufficed to lead her back. Yet the LORD Himself declares, "*Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of reeling... you will never drink it again*" (Is. 51:22). The wrath has been removed by His hand. The chains of judgment are broken.

But now comes the response: "*Shake off the dust and arise, be enthroned, Jerusalem! Loose the bonds off your neck, captive Daughter of Zion*" (Isaiah 52:2). This is where the responsibility shifts. God has broken the chains, but He calls His people to throw them off. Too often, we continue living as though we are still bound—dragging broken chains like prisoners long after the doors have been opened. His deliverance is real, but it must be embraced. To awaken is to refuse to wear the identity of captivity any longer. The Lord has acted, but now we must act.

Stand up. Shake off the dust. Stop living in the lie of bondage and walk in the freedom He has already given. The LORD has broken your chains, but only you can throw them off. Stop living like a captive, and rise into the freedom He has secured for you.

### **3. AWAKE TO YOUR NEWNESS! (Isaiah 52:1–3)**

Isaiah calls Zion to clothe herself in strength and beautiful garments. The image is not just of being restored but of becoming what God created her to be: a holy city, a kingdom of priests. This echoes Exodus, where the priestly garments were made “for glory and beauty.” God calls His people not merely to be delivered from captivity but to rise into their true identity.

This awakening points beyond Babylon, for Jerusalem was invaded again and again. It ultimately points to the New Jerusalem where nothing unclean will ever enter (Revelation 21). The call is urgent: shake off the dust, remove the chains, and sit enthroned. Though God breaks the chains, His people must remove them and walk in freedom. Redemption will not come by silver or gold, but by a greater price—hinting at Messiah’s sacrifice to come. Put off the old and put on the garments of beauty God has given you. Stop living as a captive and walk in the freedom and identity Messiah purchased for you.

### **CONCLUSION**

AWAKEN TO THE GOOD NEWS! Isaiah’s vision culminates in a runner declaring good news: peace, goodness, salvation—“Your God reigns!” Watchmen on the walls join in, shouting for joy as the LORD Himself returns to Zion. The nations will see His holy arm revealed, and all the ends of the earth will behold His salvation. This is life as God intends: shalom, goodness, deliverance. But how will it happen? The text leaves us in suspense, pointing us toward Isaiah 53—the Suffering Servant. Messiah Yeshua is the Arm of the LORD revealed. Through Him, wrath is removed, chains are broken, and new garments are given. This is the good news to which we must awaken. The only question left is: Will we respond? Awaken to the good news of Messiah. Receive His deliverance, throw off the chains, and live as those redeemed by the Arm of the LORD.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How does the call to “Awake, O Arm of the LORD” show the importance of remembering God’s past faithfulness?
2. Why is the reflexive command “Awake yourself” significant for understanding our responsibility in responding to God?
3. What does it mean to “put on beautiful garments” in light of Is. 52:1–2 and Exodus 28:2?
4. How does Isaiah 52:7–10 connect the good news of salvation to the reign of God?
5. In what ways do you need to personally “shake off the dust” and live in the freedom Messiah has given you?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkenu, Our Father, Our King, we hear the shofar of Your Word calling us to awaken. Thank You for the Arm of the LORD revealed in Yeshua our Messiah. Forgive us for the times we have lived in stupor or captivity, forgetting Your faithfulness. Help us to awaken to our newness, to clothe ourselves in the garments of holiness and beauty You provide. May we proclaim the good news that our God reigns, and may Your salvation be revealed through us to the ends of the earth!*

*B'Shem Yeshua, In Yeshua's Name, Amen.*