

Why the Fear of the Lord?

**"Come You Children, Listen to Me;
I Will Teach You the Fear of the LORD"
Psalm 34:11**

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Thank you so much, to my husband and children, for your patience, encouraging smiles, and untiring support. I give praise to Our Father for all four of you. It is truly a joy and a privilege being a part of *your* beautiful family. ☺

To my sisters in Messiah, the “Mary’s and the Martha’s,” including my gentle-spirited editor and my darling mother, who prayed for me and tarried with me to see this book completed in Spirit and in Truth, thank you. I appreciate your genuine encouragement, your unbiased, earnest input, and your love. I am very grateful to have you all in my life and I love you dearly.

Cynthia

Alpha

Spirit Led!

When I told a few of my siblings in the LORD about “Melodies with the Word,” recording scripture to song, they loved the idea. I was then questioned as to why I chose the fear of the LORD as the first subject. What about praise? What about love? Well, I can say with assurance, this message was definitely given to me by the Spirit of the LORD and it’s because it takes us back to basics.

Though we are in the busiest season, I believe, in the history of the world (Daniel 12:4), it is my desire that everyone who reads this book will not only be reminded of the majesty of the LORD, but see it, embrace it, and tarry within its realms. I pray that you will be deeply moved, truly inspired to fear Him.

“For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.” Psalm 96:4-6

Chapter I

Retracing Truth

But isn't fearing God, or the "Fear of the LORD" expression, Old Testament Teaching?

God, who is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, is synonymously "The LORD God of Israel," "The Holy One of Israel," "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," and their descendants, as well as the God *"who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is God Almighty. He is the True God. Jeremiah 10:10 attests:

"But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King..."

Well this, the true God, cut a covenant with Abraham - a covenant with many promises like no other, with no other. This covenant concerns Abraham and his descendants - including his son Isaac, his grandson Jacob or "Israel," and *all future believers*, because of his obedience. Abraham was a righteous man who trusted, feared, loved, worshiped, and obeyed God - who also became known as a friend of God. Because of these things God Almighty established a covenant with him:

"When (Abram) was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I Am Almighty God; walk before me and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.' Then (Abram) fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: As for me, behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you." Genesis 17:1-7

Now, for Abraham and his descendants, God's children, fearing Him and being His children was, and still is, *one and the same*. He is the God that is to be feared and He requires it. Yes...He requires it! When searching the written Word of God, we find no shortage of books, chapters, or verses referencing the fear of the LORD and discover that it is not a minor matter to Him. God Almighty clearly expects this of His children.

In the days of the Old Testament (Hebrew "Tanakh," or Old Covenant), God's chosen were admonished to fear the LORD always! In Deuteronomy 10:12-13 Moses teaches God's children:

"And now Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"

Fearing God was required for the benefit of God's people. If or when they did not walk in the fear of the LORD, which would undoubtedly lead to sin, there were grave consequences.

So what are you saying, Cynthia?

What I'm saying is... if we claim to be the children of this God, the God of Abraham and all of his descendants, and if we so claim and expect the Covenant blessings of this, the only true and living God, as promised to Abraham and his descendants, including all believers, then fearing Him comes with the Covenant! And, that's only the *beginning of wisdom* (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10).

Many have been deceived into thinking that "the fear of the LORD" is somehow outdated, *Old Covenant* teaching. But as we get into the Word of God concerning this subject, we will see that the fear of the LORD is just as alive in the Messianic teachings (*New Testament*). Furthermore, the ways and precepts of God do not change.

Remember, this great God is the same yesterday, today, and forever more! The "Fear of the LORD" is for today!

Chapter II

What Does it Mean to Fear the LORD?

Should we be scared of God...?

There are several Hebrew words (*transliterations*) for the term "fear." "Fear" in the phrase "fear of the LORD" comes from the Hebrew word Yirah (yir-aw'), with its root found in the term Yare (yaw-ray') which translates: "to fear, revere, be afraid, to stand in awe of, be awed." Another Biblical use of the word "fear" in "godly fear" comes from the Hebrew word Pachad (pakh-ad) which means "terror, to dread, be in dread or in awe." Phobeō (fob-eh'-ō), a Greek word used for "fear" means "to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience" but can also mean "to fear, be afraid," or "to be struck with amazement."

It is my understanding that the Hebrew people were and are very passionate and full of emotion, and as a result of this, many of their words describe more of a sentiment, feeling, or reaction, rather than an act.

Nevertheless, by all accounts, no matter the context, the expressions "fear of the LORD," "fear God", or the word "fear" used in reference to overall "godly fear," mean just what they say. In my research I have found that "the fear of the LORD" is an authentic blend of every definition listed, and then some.

In this day and age, I realize there are many who prefer not to use the term "fear" in the context of "godly fear". Some believe and are teaching that we should use the noun "reverence" instead because, they say, it provides a clearer understanding of "the fear" of the LORD.

As with the word "fear," "reverence" has multiple implications: veneration, profound awe and respect; an act of showing respect, as in a bow; the state of being revered ¹

Of course, the verb form of reverence is "revere" which is Latin in origin and when dissected it reads: *re-*, again + *vereri*, to fear. ²

So while fearing God is truly reverencing Him, it's only because the word reverence finds its root in the word "fear." Therefore, no matter how you slice it, the fear of the LORD is the "fear" of the LORD.

And though these terms, "fear" and "reverence" or "to revere" are used interchangeably in many instances, I believe the "fear" sentiment, and the use of the term as it pertains to the Only True and Living God is most appropriate because it deepens or intensifies the magnitude of the respect and honor He is owed.

When I asked a rabbi about the "fear of the LORD," He described fearing God, *for the children of God*, as a combination of love and fear toward our Heavenly Father. I believe I understood the love/fear description so well because it reminds me of the relationship I have been afforded with my daddy; my earthly father.

Picture This:

A Digression for an Explanation

While growing up, my sisters and I had a beautiful relationship with my dad, as we still do. From our Sunday fellowship gatherings to Saturday outings at the park, we always spent time together.

My daddy is an outdoorsman who loves hunting and fishing; and when we were younger we had our fishing poles and rods just like my dad. No, we did not have our own rifles, but we learned a little bit about them as well! My dad loved to play games with us and he was also a part of a bowling league; so yep, we did a lot of that too! In addition to many other games, we had our ping pong table and we would have tournaments in our carport where we would beat out the entire neighborhood with my daddy right there coaching, and cheering us on! Every school or church activity we chose to participate in, my daddy was right there proudly supporting us with his bright-eyed, infectious big smile.

But, in all the laughter and wonderful times together, we understood who my daddy was. In other words, we talked, laughed a lot, and played together, but we did not “play” with my daddy. When he gave us instructions, or an order, we knew to do it! We knew that it would be in our best interest to handle our business! We took my daddy seriously. We understood that he was the one in charge, the leader, the one in authority and that he was to be respected.

We could not and would not talk any kind of way to my dad or mom, or do any and everything we thought we wanted to do while living in their house! We understood that my dad expected obedience and respect, which in turn, would and did bring about a fruitful and enjoyable relationship. We knew, wholeheartedly, that our dad loved us through his actions and the fact that he would tell us, quite often. We also knew, in our household and relationship, that there was safety. We felt very secure, sheltered and confident. Nevertheless, whenever we would cross the line, walk in disobedience or defiance, there were consequences. Frankly, I dreaded those consequences which, for the most part, kept me in order.

So today I praise the LORD for my daddy so much. Our relationship is “rich” and solid and I have the deepest respect and love for him and my mother (Leviticus 19:3a).

Get the Picture?

Well...similarly, but far greater, for the saints of God, those who acknowledge, love, and walk in right relationship with our Father through our Savior Jesus, in addition to clearly understanding where our help comes from, the “fear of the LORD” is a way of life which produces unyielding adoration and honor for Him. It kindles a continual heart of gratitude and worship. *It is worship.* And worship involves homage, honor, reverence, obedience, and love for our Father.

In the Book of Jonah, chapter 1:9, Jonah properly introduces himself to the mariners of the ship he’d boarded in his disobedience to God. As great trouble has come upon all of them because of Jonah’s defiance, he says to them, ***“I am a Hebrew, and I fear (yare) the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”***

When Jonah says "I fear the LORD," he is proclaiming to these men that he lives by the LORD's instructions. In other words he is saying, "I do not function or operate on my own "unction" or anointing, but under the directives or leading of the LORD.

Now we all know that Jonah's fear of the LORD was not exemplified in his rebelliousness. And as we also know, Jonah's disobedience did not come without consequence. What happened when Jonah did not operate or walk in the fear of the LORD? He had to be thrown overboard into the sea, and spend three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish, that's what! That fish was Jonah's salvation and chastening all at the same time. The LORD chastens those He loves. And in the time of chastening from the LORD, it is for the breaking of one's "will" ...to bow to the "will" of the One we say we fear.

Consequently, when the men who threw Jonah into the sea witnessed the omnipotence of God as the sea "*ceased from its raging,*" the Bible says "*the men feared the LORD exceedingly (they were frightened), and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.*"

Everything we do and say in our lives is, or ought to be, a testament of our worship or fear of the LORD.

In the fear of the LORD one always sees God near, ever-present, no matter where we are or what situation we find ourselves in. In Jeremiah 23:23-24, the Living God says:

" 'Am I a God near at hand,' says the LORD, 'And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in places, So I shall not see him?' says the LORD; 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?'" says the LORD."

Those who walk in the fear of the LORD resemble obedient children, who, when physically away from their earthly parents, behave as if their parents are right there with them. They are very cognizant of their teachings and instructions and are careful not to defy their training which will eventually define the fiber of their inner being. And when those obedient children grow into adults, the values their parents have taught them will have been permanently instilled in them and they will walk *in* them instinctively.

To fear the LORD is to have an understanding that it is He who has made us and not we ourselves. Psalm 33:6-9 says:

"By the Word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."

So in essence, to fear the LORD is to recognize and acknowledge that He is the Only Wise, True God, which will unquestionably leave us in complete awe of Him. But not only that... to fear Him is to learn of Him, His precepts, His ways, His commands, His guidelines for life, and to do them. To fear Him is to be humbled by His magnificence and tremble at the thought of His judgments. The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 119:120:

*"My flesh trembles for fear (terror, dread) of You;
I am afraid of your judgments."*

And for the redeemed of the LORD, fearing Him is to completely love and adore Him, to delight in Him, knowing that He is good and kind, having an earnest desire to please Him. To live life like you know God **IS**, is truly fearing the LORD.

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping them there is great reward.” Psalm

19:7-11

I am reminded of an incident that occurred several years ago on a home-school outing. A couple of my sisters in the LORD and I were preparing to leave a restaurant after taking our kids to lunch. As one of them, *Jane* (we’ll call her) opened her car door to place her daughter in the car seat she accidentally hit the parked car next to hers with her door. We all froze for a moment as she hurriedly checked to see if there was any damage done. Well, a hint of her car’s paint and a subtle dent were on the other person’s vehicle and, needless to say, *Jane* was not happy.

But as irritated as she was, instead of shirking her responsibility and simply leaving the scene (as some very well may have done, since the owner of the vehicle was not around to witness the episode) after pausing for a moment, she made a statement that revealed her heart: **“I Need God.”** She then proceeded to go back into the restaurant, found the owner of the vehicle, told them what happened, sincerely apologized, and gave them her insurance information.

Jane is a woman who loves God, and in that three-worded statement, **“I Need God,”** and through her actions, her love for God and her “fear of the LORD” were openly made known. I do not know the thoughts that raced through her head. Thoughts of opposition may have crossed her mind, *only for a moment*; “it’s not that bad,” or “I really don’t have time for this.” But her love for the LORD spoke louder than the opposing thoughts attempting to overtake her better judgment.

There was so much wrapped in her statement. What we *heard* was *Jane* saying **“No, I will not brush this off, it would not be right... I’m not taking this lightly. See, I need God... so there is no way I will allow anything like this to come in between us.”** (James 4:17)

Jane, with the mind of Messiah, did as he taught us: do to others as you would have them do to you. By the Spirit of God in the fear of the LORD, *Jane* was a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. She had made up her mind that she would not do anything that would give place to the enemy, which would open the door for havoc. Psalm 111:10 says:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding (good sense) have all those who do His commandments. His Praise endures forever.

Jane understood that her omnipresent Father was right there as a witness to the matter, the only witness necessary, even if the owner of the vehicle was not. And though she may not have felt like taking the time to find the owner, nor dealing with the tedious implications of the accident, she had sense enough to know that, not only was it the right thing to do morally, but it would be pleasing to her Father whom she loves. She also knew that if she did not do it, there could and would be consequences by her

heavenly Father who chastises those He loves. *And who likes to be chastised by the Father, God?! Her love for God and His Way, and/or her fear of the LORD, far outweighed the light affliction she would endure from the owner of the vehicle, the insurance company, and all other parties that were soon to be involved.*

Though we have many biblical, more profound or weighty illustrations of the fear of the LORD, of which we will expound on later, this incident is an example of a modern-day, genuine **“fear of the LORD.”**

Footnotes-

1. ****allwords.com, Dictionary content provided from Wiktionary.org under the GNU Free Documentation License Allwords Copyright 1998-2010 Allsites LLC. All rights reserved.*
2. *“Webster’s New World Dictionary” (p. 552) Fourth Edition -Michael Agnes, Editor in Chief-Copyright 2003 by Wiley Publishing, Inc.*

Chapter III

False Fear

Stemmed from the traditions of Men

“Their worship of me is useless, because they teach man made rules as if they were doctrines.”

Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7

The Word of the LORD confirms that we have been commanded and cautioned to fear God. Besides, no one can truly love and have a relationship with the Father and *not* fear or be in awe of Him.

But in thinking about the overwhelming splendor of God versus the position of today's society and many modern day congregations, it appears that this is the message that has somehow been annulled or forgotten, inadvertently by some and deliberately by others. For quite some time now, a number of teachers and pastors have been teaching and preaching away “the fear of the LORD” with an imbalanced message of God's love, goodness, mercy and grace. This may sound strange because, as we know, God is love. Yet, we also know that love is demonstrated in a number of ways.

Most of us have heard and quoted the phrase “love is an action word.” I, for one, believe this is true. And so it is with God, starting with the gift of His only Son and what we receive by wholly trusting in that Son who brought the gospel of His Kingdom. The good news is God's love for us manifested, along with all that that involves - including His eternal reign, our eternal life, being His children, and the privilege of an intimate, loving relationship with Him now and forever more.

But what some of us may not understand, or do not want to hear and accept, is that with love comes truth, correction, and chastening which is “balanced” or “just.” In other words, it is “right.” So while our great God is love, His love exudes all that is right. Therefore, when what is right is taught, it promotes the fear of the LORD. Proverbs 2:1-5 says:

“My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”

This is truth.

But...some have perverted the Truth of God. The great God of the Universe is not being exalted, nor sought after, nor hungered for. The “god” that is being hailed is an *equal*, a *sidekick*, or better yet, a *subordinate* that we can control and manipulate; a god who is weak and not in control. What's more, the attributes of the god being exalted and sought after by the masses are carnal in nature, made with hands in the form of cars, houses, paper money and such (I Peter 1:17-18).

Loving the true God with all of our hearts, and fearing Him, is rarely or no longer in the equation. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness has become a vague notion. Sadly, through this false teaching, many do not see or know God as the sovereign, majestic God He really is.

Again, it is true that God is love, rich in mercy, and definitely gracious! He is also the ultimate gift giver. However, the heresies, half-truths and blatant lies going forth breed the "lukewarm" who name the name of the LORD but, as II Timothy 3:7 says, "*are always learning never coming into the knowledge of the Truth.*" It has become as the Word of the LORD reads in Isaiah 29:13:

"These people draw near to me with their mouths and honor me with their lips but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear of me is made up only of rules (commandments) taught by men."

We know that the Kingdom message is a message of peace and hope, restoration and righteousness; but first, it is a message that will bring conviction and repentance. And that repentance, the *t'shuva* or "turning to God" from a life of sin and ungodliness, that "broken heart and contrite spirit" is the evidence of the fear of the LORD.

There are leaders, other members of the body of Messiah, and non-believers alike who love John, chapter 8, verses 1-11(a); the written account of the woman caught in adultery. It has been used over and over again to show God's love and compassion for people but, for many, it has been used to promote a falsity - divine tolerance for sin.

You may have noticed that many love the "*you without sin throw the first stone*" part of the story. But I've scarcely heard the "*Go and sin no more*" part of the story quoted. How about you?

Jesus taught, in John, chapter 3, that God so loved the world that He gave His only son. Jesus also taught, in that same chapter, that God did not send His son to condemn the world but that through Him the world might be saved. In John chapter 8, the Scribes and Pharisees were testing the Lord, but He did not have to prove anything to them. He knew the Law of Moses but, greater than that, He knew why He had come. He had come *for* that woman caught in adultery and all *in* sin, the whole world - not to condemn us, but to save and deliver us, and reunite us with our Father. And so, not only was the woman spared from her accusers in this life but she was granted eternal life as she was told to "**go and sin no more.**"

John 10:10 says that Jesus came that we may have life, and life more abundantly. In the book of John, chapter 5, verses 1-14 give an account of Messiah healing a man on the Sabbath. This man had been sick thirty-eight years, so long that Jesus asked him if he *wanted* to be healed. After the man replied that he did want healing, Jesus told him, "**Get up, pick up your mat and walk!**" Later, after the man had been healed, in John 5:14, Jesus found him in the temple court and said to him:

"See, you are well! Now stop sinning, or something worse may happen to you!"

Uh...I don't know about you, but it appears to me that if this man who was healed did not fear God, it had to be the aim or purpose of Jesus to put the fear of God in him with that statement!

Saint of God, this is the whole truth.

We must tell others that God is love. We should tell them that God is our healer and our deliverer. However we must tell them the whole truth - that sin separates us from the Living God because He is not a God that can tolerate sin. If He was, His Son would not have had to come and die for us. However the coming of the Savior does not give us liberty to continue in sin but, on the contrary, His coming and shedding His blood for us has freed us from the bondage of sin! Glory to God! With this truth, people *would* fear God.

Furthermore, we certainly can not teach the traditions and practices of men as the Truth of God. Doing so will produce a false fear because the authentic precepts of the One True God are lacking. And, in reality, the precepts of God are **not** the foundation, or at the heart of the traditions of men.

Matthew 15:1-20 and Mark 7:1-23, give the account of the scribes and Pharisees questioning Jesus about his disciples concerning their *traditions*:

“Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” Matthew 15:2

I love Jesus’ reply:

“Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?”

Now most of us can see how irrelevant and insignificant the question of the scribes and Pharisees (the leaders) is; more so because, today, we know now that those things have NO bearing on our eternity. Whether or not we wash our hands certainly does not demonstrate the heart. And because of this, Jesus, quite perturbed, makes it clear that many of their traditions caused many to break or transgress the commandments of God, which is truth for right now - today! Many, or even most of the traditions of men are simply, yet dangerously, distractions that take our attention and affections away from the true purposes of God, the issues that really matter. Saint of the Most High God, this is very serious. Jesus says, as it is written in Mark 7: 8-9:

“You depart from God’s command and hold onto human tradition. Indeed,” he said to them, “you have made a fine art of departing from God’s command in order to keep your tradition!”

Are we transgressing, and causing others to transgress because of our traditions, our way of doing things? Do we esteem what we have become accustomed to doing higher than the commandments of God, even when they contradict or fail to line up with His way or His Word?

Several years ago during a Sunday meeting, my former pastor made a statement that brought me joy and pain all at the same time, “joy” because he knew the truth, “pain” because it’s a sad truth! He said that *most of what we do in the “churches” today was not ordained by God, but to turn it (change it) would be like trying to “turn the Titanic.”* Saint of God, we all know what happened to the Titanic! So that tells me that we’d better “get to turning” and if we perish, we perish making every effort to obey our God!

No, some traditions *may* not send people to the hell but they definitely will not teach them the fear of the LORD and keep them from going there either! Jesus says:

“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies, these are the things which defile a man...” Matthew 15:18-20a

Are we more concerned with our traditions, our programs, our agendas, or *our* visions, rather than the heart of a man and true purposes of God? If so, we are characterized by Jesus as hypocrites! Concerning the teachers and the doers of those traditions that promote hypocrisy, Jesus says in Matthew 15:14:

“Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

This does not sound good and promising to me. Remember, the Pharisees were some of the greatest traditionalists that ever lived, and Jesus said to the unbelieving Pharisees that their father was the devil (John 8:44), and that they make their converts “twice the sons of hell as they are (Matthew 23:15)!

Deuteronomy 13:4 makes it clear that God’s children are to be true to Him by keeping **His** instructions:

“You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.”

“Worship the LORD your God, fear him, obey his commands, listen to what he says, serve him, and be loyal to him.” The God’s Word Translation

I am reminded of the man of God from Judah that was sent by God to Bethel in I Kings, chapter 13. He was given the Word of the LORD in his mouth and specific instructions from the LORD for his divinely appointed journey. Not only had the LORD commanded that the man of God not eat or drink in Bethel, but once he had completed his assignment in Bethel, he was not to go back through Bethel the same way he had come.

However, the man of God had done great signs and wonders in the name of God there, so Israel’s sinful king, Jeroboam, offered to reward the man and invited him to his home. Hear the words of the man of God as he responds to the king’s invitation:

“But the man of God said to the king, “Even if you gave me half of everything you own, I would not go with you. I would not eat or drink anything in this place: The LORD gave me a command. He said ‘Do not eat bread or drink water there. Do not return the same way you came.’”” I Kings 13:8-9

This man of God had been given clear, detailed instructions by the LORD, and he followed them, that is, until an old prophet heard about all of the awesome things he had done. I Kings 13:11 says:

“An old prophet was living in Bethel. His sons came and spoke to him. They told him everything the man of God had done there that day. They also told their father what the man had said to the king.”

After hearing these things the old prophet asked his sons which way the man of God had gone after he left. The sons showed their father the road which the man from Judah had taken, and then the old prophet instructed his sons to saddle up a donkey for him. So the old prophet got on the donkey and

traveled on the same road the man of God had taken. When he found him, the old prophet confirmed the identity of the man of God first, and then said to him:

"Come home with me. I'll give you something to eat." I Kings 13:15

The man of God did not hesitate to tell the old prophet what the LORD had instructed him to do. He replied:

"I can't go back to Bethel with you. I can't eat bread or drink water there. I've received a message from the LORD." I Kings 13:16

But then the old prophet lied... and said:

"I'm also a prophet, just like you. An angel gave me a message from the LORD. The message said, 'Bring the man of God back with you to your house. Then he can eat bread and drink water with you'" I Kings 13:18

Every time I read or think of this tragic story, it saddens me greatly, but it also reminds me of how deeply important it is to obey the LORD's commands, and His only, just as the children of God were cautioned to do in Deuteronomy 13:4.

Well, as some of us already know, the man of God did heed, and act on, the instructions of the old prophet. He went back to the old prophet's house in Bethel, and ate and drank with him. But what followed is a fearful, heart-wrenching lesson learned as, this time, a genuine message from the LORD is given to the man of God by the old prophet. I Kings 13: 20-22 says:

"They were sitting at the table. The LORD gave a message to the old prophet who had brought the man of God back. He cried out to the man who had come from Judah. He told him, 'The LORD says, you have not done what I told you to do. You have not obeyed the command I gave you. I am the LORD your God. You came back here and ate bread and drank water. You did it in the place where I told you not to. So your body will not be buried in your family tomb.'"

After leaving the old prophet's house in Bethel, a lion attacked the man of God on the road and killed him. The Bible says that his body was left lying in the road. When people passed by and saw his body with the lion standing beside it, they went to Bethel and reported it.

"The prophet who had brought the man back from his journey heard about what happened. He said, 'It's the man of God. He didn't do what the LORD told him to do. So the LORD has given him over to the lion. The lion has attacked him and killed him. Everything has happened just as the LORD's message had warned him it would.'" I Kings 13:26

As quoted earlier, Jesus told the Pharisees:

"You depart from God's command and hold onto human tradition."

Mark 7: 8

Though this verse is not referring to the incident between the man of God and the old prophet per se, it can be used to shed light on what occurred. We can speculate that the man of God from Judah had been taught that the word of a prophet is "golden" or solid, but ironically, what he was allegedly taught, could

have been the reason he was easily misled. Once again, we can only speculate on that. But what we do know for certain is that the old prophet masked his lie by identifying himself as a prophet also, as he truly was. But he used this “ministry” to purposely deceive. By this, the man of God unsuspectingly placed his fear of God on the back burner and placed his trust in the word of a man that plainly, and totally, contradicted the Word of the LORD given directly to him.

Saint of God, the fear of the LORD is essentially life-saving. We must fear and obey Him.

We must remember that the truth of God mirrors His Word. His Word must be hidden in our hearts so that we won't sin against Him. Then, even the traditions, rules, requests, or commands of men will not be able to cause us to stray from the laws, commandments, or instructions of God.

In Matthew 23:1-33, read it in your Bible, Jesus sums up the ways of the Pharisees. It is a profound description of what was going on during that time and, sadly, it reflects a lot of what is taking place today.

It's inevitable that false teaching, or the traditions of men taught as the Truth of God, will never do anyone any good. It manufactures a false perception of the True God and a false perception creates a false fear of the LORD. The traditions or rules of men will only produce a “form of godliness.” We can clearly see that today, can't we? Those man-made rules are deceptively cloaked in an appearance of godliness but, similar to the lie of the old prophet in I Kings, can potentially take us off course and cause us to “miss the mark” which can ultimately lead to destruction.

We must walk and live in the fear of the LORD. We must obey the LORD's commands. By His Spirit we must test **all** things, regardless of who says them or does them. **You**, line them up with His Word. We must obey the Word of the LORD. It is only His truth, by His Word, that will eradicate a false fear stemmed from the traditions of men, and encourage a sincere “fear of the LORD”.

Chapter IV

How Dare We Not Fear Him!

Acknowledging His Awesomeness

Do you remember the not-so-long-ago message of “fire and brimstone;” when the abundant teaching of judgment, and the reality of hell was the norm? Though truth is apparent in the message of judgment, I believe the Holy Spirit gave the people of the LORD the revelation that there was an imbalanced Kingdom message going forth at best. And in an attempt to blot out the extremities with what *could* have been a pure Kingdom message...it was, instead taken to the opposite end of the margin.

Saint of God, the balanced, whole message of truth is what our Savior taught:

*“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...
you must be born again.”* John 3:1-21

*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. T’shuva or Repent (turn to God) and believe in
the gospel.”* Mark 1:15

“Go and sin no more” John 8:11

“Whom the Son sets free is free indeed.” John 8:36

“Love the LORD your God and love your neighbor as yourself.”
Matthew 22:36-40

*“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only True God,
and Jesus whom You have sent.”* John 17:3

*“He that trusts (believes) and is baptized shall be saved;
but he that does not trust shall be condemned.”* Mark 16:16

“...fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
Matthew 10:28b

And so on . . .

This message of truth was also carried out by the Apostles of our LORD, and we can witness and learn of this in the Book of Acts. Jesus showed us the love of God, and the compassion of the Father, yet he also made it clear that this same loving God is to be feared.

We, all creation, need to remember that our Creator is not only the giver of life, but He is the Cause and Sustainer of life itself. The universe, everything in it, and far beyond what we can see, or even imagine, belongs to Him. He is God Almighty, the great I Am; He’s Elohim! Nothing exists outside or apart from Him; for it is only in Him that we live, move, and have our being. He encompasses all that is, and all that is, is encompassed *in* Him and subject to His rule: every realm, every territory, every

kingdom; the heavens, hell, angels and demons! He is the Ancient of Days who lives outside of time! He is *the* Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End who always was! Our beautiful God is truly awesome! Psalm 33:9 reminds us:

*"For He spoke and it was done;
He commanded and it stood fast."*

Here, the LORD speaks to the house of Jacob and unfaithful Judah:

"'Do you not fear me?' says the LORD." " 'Will you not tremble at my presence, who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, yet they cannot prevail; though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.'" Jeremiah 5:22

"They do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.'" Jeremiah 5:24

It is evident in Jeremiah 5:22 and 24 that God Almighty found it necessary to sternly replenish the memory banks of His children, poetically illustrating what He has done as a sobering memento of who He is. And just as He asked Judah then, the question still remains and is being asked today to all of us who say "LORD, LORD..." "Do you not fear Me?" Through His imperially orchestrated, mind-boggling handiwork, the aforementioned verses literally give us a visual of the supremacy of our only wise Creator!

Will you not fear the God who is not only the source of our boundless universe, our fixed solar system, and its precise order; but at His command, at any given moment, can alter its habitual process?

"On the day the LORD gave the Israelites victory over the Amorites, Joshua prayed to the LORD in front of all the people of Israel. He said, 'Let the sun stand still over Gibeon, and the moon over the Valley of Aijalon.' So the sun stood still and the moon stayed in place until the nation of Israel had defeated its enemies... So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day." Joshua 10: 12-13

"Will you not fear Me?" says the LORD. Will we not stand in awe of God? With the spoken Word, just as surely as the LORD God created it all, decreed its existence, set it in place, and *keeps it going*, He can and **will**, suddenly, change it all! This present age and all that is familiar to us will pass away and the LORD, God Almighty, is the only one who determines when this will take place! Hear the word of the LORD through His servant Malachi:

"'Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them a fire,' says the LORD Almighty." "'Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who fear my name, the Sun of righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. And you will go free leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture (from the stall).'" Malachi 4:1-2

Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:14:

"I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever: nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it: and God does it, that men should fear before Him."

Will those who are unrepentant and unforgiving not even fear the consequences of sinning against God? As mentioned earlier, some of us may only want to see God, or think of Him, as the God of Love, a one-sided "blissful" love, and not the God who judges the righteous and the wicked... but Psalm 7:11 says:

"God is a just judge and God is angry with the wicked every day."

We humans were created in the image of God and if injustice and lawlessness in the earth offends law-abiding citizens, how can we possibly think lawlessness, sin, and total defiance against the character, way, and commandments of God will not offend Him? He is love and righteousness, therefore all unrighteousness is sin against Him. In Psalm 5:4-7, the Psalmist David wrote:

"For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple."

In II Corinthians, the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Knowing therefore the terror of the LORD, we persuade men"
II Corinthians. 5:11

"Fear God, give Him glory, for the hour has come when He will pass judgment! Worship the One who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water!" Revelation 14:7

God is to be feared! Through the Messiah, our Heavenly Father abides with and **in** those who love Him by His Spirit, yet He is omnipresent! He is everywhere at the same time! His loving kindness is sure, yet He is dreadfully powerful! He has graciously given us our "will," yet He is eternally sovereign. He is absolute, and absolutely always in control. He is the unchangeable, intelligent God. Jeremiah 10:6-7 says:

"Inasmuch as there is none like You, O LORD (You are great, and Your name is great in might), who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like You."

In Isaiah 44 the LORD of Hosts declares His Own Sovereignty:

"Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock, I know not one." Isaiah 44:8b

Who would not fear Him? (*I'll tell you who later on...*) There is nothing, not one single entity, that can even begin to compare to Him, and though I've tried, there are truly no words to meticulously define Him. Hear the Word in Isaiah 40:12-15 as Israel is comforted, being reminded of their Father's character and awesomeness:

"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and measured heaven with a span (duration or distance), and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in balance?"

*“Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,
or as His counselor taught Him?”*

*“With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him,
and taught Him in the path of justice? “*

*“Who taught Him knowledge, and showed
Him the way of understanding?”*

*“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket,
and are counted as the small dust on the balance;
behold, He takes up the coasts as a very little thing.”*

Our minds are too finite to fully grasp All He is. Our *intellect* is too limited to entirely comprehend the overwhelming magnificence and infinite wisdom of *I Am*. How dare we not fear Him!

Chapter V

“...Dominion and Fear Belong to Him”

Job 25:2a

Throughout the Word of God, we are comforted by the fact that the children of God have no need to fear, be afraid, or filled with anxiety and worry. Those of us who are in the LORD, who have placed our complete trust in the LORD, have no reason to fear or be afraid of man, the adversary, or any of the circumstances we may encounter. And even if the “spirit of fear” attempts to paralyze or consume us, we know that we have the promises of God to speak and stand on. Our brother Paul wrote in II Timothy 1:7:

*“For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power
and of love and of a sound mind.”*

David wrote in Psalm 56:4:

*“In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust;
I will not fear what flesh can do to me.”*

Those who trust God with all of their hearts, and those who know and can testify of the Father’s love for them walk in boldness and do not live in fear because the supreme God of the universe is their God! He is their protector and their fortress! Moreover, intimacy with the Father through our Savior Jesus rescinds the need for His children to fear His wrath and judgments concerning our eternity. We are able to know and understand the truth of God concerning what is to come and not fear that truth because I John 4: 15-18 tells us that:

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in Him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But He who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

I’ve heard many believers verbalize their personal fears concerning the inevitable end of the age truths; so much so, they are afraid to ponder, discuss, and study the things we’ve been urged to know concerning these matters. Should there be a “trembling” as it pertains to these matters? Yes, but only to keep us in “the fear of the LORD.”

For as odd or contrary as it may seem, **godly fear** or **the fear of the LORD**, a constant, radical honor and reverence for God wrapped in love, is a necessity for our spiritual well-being and health, *to say the least*. It is the fear of the LORD that enables us to boldly walk honorably in any given situation. Proverbs 14: 26 says:

*“In the fear of the LORD, there is strong confidence,
and His children will have a place of refuge.*

When we fear Him, we have a grip on reality or what is real, what is truth and what is of importance. Remember, the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. This, in turn, translates into confidence and holy boldness. In our daily walk when trouble arises, as mentioned early on, we know where our help comes from. We are secure in the fear of the LORD and know by the love of God that we are well kept, provided for, and protected. As previously quoted, Psalm 33:8 says:

“Let all the earth fear the LORD, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

“ ‘For I am a Great King ,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and My name is to be feared among the nations.’ ” Malachi 1:14b

In Malachi, The LORD’s declaration needs no interpreting! If we professed believers are not standing in awe of the Most High God, we need to question whether or not we fear the LORD. If one can refer loosely to, or about, the LORD our God, Jesus Messiah, and the Holy Spirit, trivialize or even mock the matters of our Holy God and His Kingdom, we need to question whether or not we fear Him. Those who fear God do not, in any way, mindlessly joke around or speak frivolously in reference to the things of God. It’s just not something God-fearers do.

We humans have a tendency to make idols and gods of people and objects. We’ll honor and reverence anything or anybody. Yes, our Heavenly Father has taught us to honor our earthly fathers, mothers, and each other. But, as we honor men, we must remember that our highest honor belongs to God. The Word of the LORD through His servant Malachi says:

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My fear?...” Malachi 1:6a

Fear, an insistent reverence, belongs to the LORD. Proverbs 19:23 says:

“The Fear of the LORD leads to life and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; and he will not be visited with evil.”

In the fear of the LORD, we *will* have a joyous life, be well satisfied and content in it! Psalm 128:1-2 says:

“Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD and walks in His ways. For you will eat the labor of your hands, happy you’ll be and it will be well with you.”

We will be content. Then in our contentment, we are assured that we will be kept from evil. Furthermore, in the fear of the LORD we will be blessed with longevity. But it is clear that when one does not walk in the fear of the LORD the opposite of these is true. In Proverbs 10:27, Solomon explains:

“The fear of the LORD prolongs your days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.”

“The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life to avoid the snares of death” Proverbs 14:27

“Behold the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.” Psalm 33: 18-19

We have been tutored, through the Word of GOD, that we **must** encompass this **YIRAH**, as it relates to God, our Maker; the Giver of Life. For without the “Fear of the LORD,” there’s interim and eternal detriment. There are penalties.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends the twelve Apostles out to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:6) and before they depart He gives them detailed orders to be carried out. Shortly thereafter, in verse 17, He alerts them of imminent persecution:

“But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues.”

“Beware” here means to “be aware;” “be prepared for” or “be on watch for.” But in verses 26, 28, and 31 He instructs them **not** to *fear* them. In verse 28 however, while plainly teaching against the fear of men, He explicitly commands the fear of our God:

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Gehenna).”

In Luke 12:4-5 it is written this way:

“And I say to you my friends, be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.” “But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: fear Him, which after he hath killed has the power to cast into hell; yea, I say to you, fear Him.”

The LORD spoke to Isaiah in chapter 8, verse 13 as he warned him not to follow the way of the people, not to allow what they fear to be what he feared. Instead, the LORD says:

“The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.”

In the aforementioned verses, the Messiah is teaching His disciples, *even us today*, to reverence the LORD in the highest possible manner, which is to Fear Him (which includes all of the definitions listed) reminding them of who their God is and, unlike anyone or anything else in all the heavens and the earth, what He has the power and ability to do!

It is also apparent, through our LORD’s teachings in Matthew 10, that fearing God will, in fact, strengthen and enable us to carry out divinely-appointed tasks! This is why He spoke these words to the Apostles. He desired that they remain faithful and not be moved in any way by what they see, hear, or feel through the threats of men, and the upcoming, life threatening circumstances!

We learn in the book of Acts that the Apostles endured persecution unlike anything most of us “westerners” have ever experienced. After all, they were told never again to speak or teach in the name of “Yeshua” (Jesus).

“But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.

And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of (Yeshua) Jesus.” Acts 4:17-18

But the Apostles were not moved. These servants of God would not be bullied. Peter and John responded by asking the rhetorical question:

“Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him?”
Acts 4:19

We must understand that to preach Yeshua, or Jesus, was life threatening but these men, our brothers, feared God more than anything men could and would do to them. They did just as they were told to do by their Savior while He was still, physically, here in the earth realm.

The LORD sums it up in Matthew 10:22b by saying

“But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

So it is, we can reasonably say, by the example of the Apostles, that the fear of the LORD brings about obedience and keeps us sober, vigilant, and diligent in our responsibilities of and for the Kingdom of God. What a privilege for us! Psalm 76:7 says:

“You alone are to be feared.
Who can stand before you when you are angry?”

In my earlier “fear of the LORD” paradigm about *Jane*, I asked then, and I ask again, who wants to be chastised by the all-powerful God, or get to the point of making Him angry!? We will see by example, later, how His children, *Judah*, made Him angry and the consequences that followed. Fearing Him is the “fear” that really matters! It makes a difference for ALL eternity!

Might I also add that in Matthew 10, and Luke 12, Jesus was not instructing His disciples to do anything He did not do and will not do in the coming Kingdom of God. Isaiah prophesied that He, the Son of God, Immanuel, “God with us,” would walk in the fear of the LORD.

“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD; and shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD...” Isaiah 11:1-3

The Messiah endured persecution unto the death. He had a divinely- appointed assignment, a promise to fulfill for the House of Israel, and for the salvation of the WHOLE WORLD - and His fear of God enabled Him to carry it out. We Praise the LORD for that! An untold number of people have now been “grafted” into that *good olive tree* (Romans 11:17-24), and can now be called the children of God. And ultimately, we have life because of His obedience!

We are not to fear or be afraid of men; what they think, their positions, their authority, their power, or expressions. Proverbs 29:25 says

"The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe (secure)."

Or

*"He that feareth man shall quickly fall: he that trusteth
in the LORD, shall be set on high."*

Douay-Rheims Bible

Just one more...

*"Fearing people is a dangerous trap,
but trusting the LORD means safety."*

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In I Samuel, chapter 15, King Saul disobeyed God because he claimed to fear the people, and lost it all! His lack of godly fear and his unfaithfulness caused an array of fierce ramifications. The kingdom of Israel was torn from Saul, the Spirit of the LORD was taken from him, which then caused the evolution of more sin, and in Chapter 31, Saul is wounded and pressured by his enemy and his sons are overtaken by them:

*"Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan,
Abinidab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.*

*And the battle became intense against Saul; and the archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by
the archers." I Samuel 31:2-3*

Finally, Saul dies. Whether he perishes after deliberately falling on his own sword, as it is written in I Samuel 31:5, or at the hand of the Amalekite who claims to have actually killed Saul in II Samuel 1, there is some debate. Nevertheless, the fact remains that Saul dies while in a losing battle with his enemies and the kingdom is given to David.

Moreover and most importantly, what we do know for sure is that Saul dies when, and how, he did because he was disobedient and unfaithful to God (I Chronicles 10:13-14). He did not walk in the fear the LORD.

He that has ears to hear, hear this by the Spirit of the LORD: *El Chai*, the Living God, is to be feared! He is to be revered! Dominion and fear, indisputably, belong to Him!

Chapter VI

The Perverse Despise Him and the Evil Do Not Fear Him

*He who walks in uprightness fears the LORD,
but he who is perverse in his ways despises Him.*

Proverbs 14:2

Evil is a factor in the earth realm. Just as sure as God is real, wickedness is a reality. There are the “churched” and the “non-churched,” that do not fear God. Early on we established that in the Word of God, we have been instructed and commanded to fear the LORD. But some may ask why it is necessary. Well beloved, ultimately, as stated earlier, fear and/or reverence is rightfully His. But, it is also “Righteousness 101.” The fear of the LORD will keep us from sin and evil!

Exodus 20:20 says:

“Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.’ ”

Proverbs 16:6 says:

*“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged,
and by the fear of the LORD, men depart from evil.”*

So now, previously I asked “Who would not fear the LORD?” Proverbs 9:10 says:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

In the first chapter of Proverbs, “Wisdom” speaks:

“Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke; they eat the fruit of their ways and are filled with the fruit of their schemes.”

Proverbs 1:29-31

Fearing the LORD is produced as a result of the knowledge, and comprehension that the God of the universe exists. As Wisdom speaks in Proverbs 1:29-31, we learn that hating knowledge, Godly knowledge and wisdom, is evidently equivalent to rejecting the plan of God for mankind, and that is to fear Him - which is synonymous with evil. So we can decide to turn away from the LORD and reject Him, His precepts and commands, or willfully choose to acknowledge, obey, reverence, and fear Him.

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

Proverbs 1:7

So, who is it that will not fear the LORD? I say to you Saint of God, show me someone that rejects and despises the sovereignty, wisdom, instruction, and even the existence of the LORD God and His kingdom (we will know by the fruit - by his words and actions which reveal the heart), and I will, according to the Word of God, show you a fool. Such a person does not hate evil but rather practices it. So without a doubt, it is a fool who will not fear the LORD. This is obvious because where there is no fear of the LORD there will certainly be foolishness which will only lead to trouble.

*“Happy is the man who fears (the LORD) always,
he that hardens his heart shall fall into mischief (trouble).”*

Proverbs 28:14

Sadly, this verse clarifies and sums up the condition of the world today! What’s even more disheartening is that the latter verse also brings understanding as to why there is iniquity, wickedness, and folly taking place in the local congregations today. It’s becoming more and more apparent that many who say “LORD, LORD” have no knowledge of Him, which hinders their ability to fear Him. And we know by watching it with our own eyes that the *lack* of godly fear brings waywardness, harm, and disobedience. But, with those who say they are disciples of the Messiah, it ought not to be so! Proverbs 8:13 says:

*“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil, pride, arrogance, and the evil way...
and the perverse mouth I hate.”*

Fearers of God hate evil. Why? - Because our Father hates evil. Fearers of God hate what our Father hates! We have been taught in Romans 12:9 to:

“Abhor (or hate) what is evil and cling to what is good.”

In Psalm 34:11-14, the Psalmist David wrote:

“Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.”

God fearers hate what our God hates. Therefore, we must know that where there is no fear of God, there will be evil, transgression, and unruliness because it is “*an abomination to fools to depart from evil.*” (Proverbs 13:19).

Those who do not fear the LORD have the potential to carry out every evil, heinous act.

“Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts. They have no fear of God at all. In their blind conceit they cannot see how wicked they really are. Everything they say is crooked and deceitful. They refuse to act wisely or good. They lie awake at night, hatching sinful plots. Their actions are never good. They make no attempt to turn from evil.”

Psalm 36:1-4

*“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?
And scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?”*

Proverbs 1:22

*"A wise man fears, and departs from evil:
but the fool rages, and is confident."*

Proverbs 14:16

*"But things will not go well with the wicked; and, like a shadow, he will not prolong his days, because
he doesn't fear God."*

Ecclesiastes 8:13

Chapter VII

“Prayers Heard, Prayers Answered. Great Blessings, Great Reward”

“Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments; his descendants will be mighty on the earth, the generation of the upright will be blessed.”

Psalm 112:1-2

We know there are a countless number of people who do not acknowledge God. There are also many who claim to walk with God and love Him, but in everyday dealings and actions there is no evidence that they are walking with or giving due homage to Him. This, undoubtedly, comes from a lack of godly fear. I say to you that if there is no fear of God, our praise is of no effect, our prayers are not heard, worship is impossible and our salvation is definitely questionable! (II Corinthians 13:5) We may go through the physical motions or theatrics; acting as if we love and reverence God but it is not so. In Matthew 15:8 Jesus, Himself, described people like this:

“These people praise me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.”

All of the peoples of the earth *should* fear God. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the God of Israel! For all who do, there will be acceptance by the Father.

*“Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear Him;
that glory may dwell in our land.”* Psalm 85:9

Let's look at Cornelius, a Roman officer in Acts 10. Verse 2 says he was:

“a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.”

This man feared God, he revered God; and he was named among the “devout,” which means “spiritual.” In other words he was sincere, earnest, and pious and his whole household walked in the fear of the LORD. Well look at what happened as a result of his godly fear.

In verse 3 he saw “clearly in a vision” an angel of God and in verse 4 the angel informed him:

*“Your prayers and gifts to the poor
have come up for a memorial before God.”*

This is so phenomenal! Because Cornelius, a Centurion of the Italian regiment, an uncircumcised “Gentile” man, feared God, even at a time when the Good News of the Kingdom had not yet been formally preached to them, our Heavenly Father heard his prayers and remembered the good things he had done. As a result, the LORD sent a member of the heavenly host, an angel of God, to proclaim his memorial and make ready to honor him.

Now, before the angel departs, he tells Cornelius to send men to Joppa to summon Simon Peter and get instructions from him.

...The day after, as Cornelius' men get close to Joppa, Peter has a vision of a "great sheet." This vision was to prepare him for his divine appointment with Cornelius, a Gentile. Peter's vision was imperative because at this time, the Apostles (Israelites) did not understand that the Good News of the Kingdom would be for all mankind, and for the Israelites, having close dealings with Gentiles, those deemed "unclean," was sinful (Read Acts 10). The message from God to Peter was so urgent that the vision was repeated three times.

As Peter pondered the vision, the Bible says, in Acts 10:19-20, that the Spirit of the LORD said to him, *"Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing, for I have sent them."* Then, on the day after Cornelius' men arrive, Peter "and other brethren from Joppa with him" go to Caesarea to meet Cornelius.

"And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends." Acts 10:24

After Peter hears Cornelius and the account of his vision, the Bible says in, Acts 10:34-35, that Peter opened his mouth and said:

*"In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.
But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."*

Now, go ahead and praise the LORD! Praise Him for His mighty acts! Praise Him according to His excellent greatness (*Psalm 150:2*)! This is too overwhelming not to bless God for His goodness and mercy toward us! It is here that Peter clearly puts things in perspective. **"Whoever fears Him AND works righteousness IS accepted by Him!**

In other words, outward actions will exemplify or demonstrate the heart.

Think on this: *I say with assurance that the working of righteousness comes naturally with the fear of the LORD...*

But, it does not end there. Peter continues on with his Kingdom message and in verse 44-46 all *heaven* breaks loose!

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the Word. And those of the circumcision who believed (on the LORD Jesus) were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."

HALLELUYAH!!! GLORY TO GOD! What A Memorial! Cornelius, an uncircumcised man, his relatives, and his close friends, heard the Kingdom message by Peter, received the priceless gift of the Holy Spirit, and... Cornelius is **still** being *remembered* and admired by **countless** others thousands of years later... because he feared God! Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

Chapter VIII

“The Fear of the LORD Leads to Life”

*“The fear of the LORD leads to life and he who has it
will abide in satisfaction...”*

Proverbs 19:23a

In the fear of the LORD, Cornelius and all those with him had a literal “your life will never be the same” experience.

Cornelius was a God-fearing Gentile. Cornelius not only feared God but he “worked” righteousness as well, which means, according to Acts 10:35, he’d *already* been accepted by God. Let’s recall Acts 10:35 in the NIV translation:

“Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.’ ”

In the next two verses, Peter indicates that Cornelius and his loved ones had already heard about Jesus:

“You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the Good News of peace through Jesus the Messiah, who is LORD of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.” Acts 10: 36-38

See, Cornelius and his loved ones *knew* of the Messiah, but as Peter spoke, it’s clear that they came to *know* the Messiah! I can wholeheartedly speculate that, as Peter told them, from his first-hand account, all about the goodness and grace of God through Jesus (the events that took place when the Savior walked the earth, what He had done, and the events to come) that their hearts became more and more overwhelmed with the Kingdom message! And because of their fear of the LORD and a pure heart for God and His Son, the inevitable happened! The gift of the Holy Ghost was poured out upon them!

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the day of redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14

Praise the LORD for the Seal of the Holy Spirit! We must understand that when one has the Spirit of God, he has Life and the guarantee that he has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb! In other words, we are truly alive because we are alive in, through, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit afforded us by Jesus, our Savior and LORD! **“The fear of the LORD leads to life,”** just as Proverbs 19:23 says.

Jesus said in John 14:6:

*"I am the Way, the Truth and the LIFE,
no man comes to the Father except through me."*

What is Jesus saying here? He is saying that no man can be reconciled unto our Heavenly Father after the tragic events in the Garden of Eden, or be given life in the Spirit of God and eternal life, except through Him.

"Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned..." Romans 5:12

Through the sin, the disobedience of Adam, all mankind became spiritually separated from God and sentenced to physical death (Genesis 3:19), being that we are all the descendants of Adam. But, praise God for His plan of reconciliation, from the beginning. I Corinthians 15:22 says:

*"And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being.'
The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit." "* I Corinthians 15:45

It is only through Jesus, the innocent Lamb of God who shed His blood, that we are given life in the Holy Spirit which gives us a brand new start and a brand new life with our Heavenly Father! For "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22).

Cornelius feared God and acknowledged Him, so he got what was *comin'* to him! This entire historical event illuminates the fact that God is no respecter of persons and that, without a doubt, WHOEVER fears the LORD and walks uprightly, Jew, non-Jew or Gentile, is accepted by the Father. I believe it's safe to say that Cornelius' name, and the names of all of those with him were written in the Lamb's Book of Life, as they so beautifully having believed, *officially* joined the Father's children of promise.

Now because Cornelius was afforded Life in the Spirit, does it end there? Do we still fear God, with our whole heart, once the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon us? Is it absolutely necessary?

I declare to you, with great emphasis (*which is the purpose of this entire book*), that it is impossible for anyone to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God and not fear Him. **Selah.**

Acts 9:31 marvelously illustrates how fearing the LORD and life in the Spirit go hand-in-hand in the lives of the early believers:

"Then the congregations throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the LORD and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied."

This verse is entirely beautiful. It reeks of pure melodious harmony, while at the same time *tastes* pleasantly sweet. It shows us a picture of what the Body of Messiah is to look like today.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit, we have been commanded to walk in, and be led of the Spirit of the LORD (Galatians 5:16-18). And since we have been born again, dead to sin and alive in Him, we are yet growing in our relationship and getting to know our Father intimately. As we get to know Him more

intimately, we discover the incredible magnitude of His mercy and goodness toward us. It is then that we are brought to the realization of how undone we are (apart from Him), which encourages a greater dependence on Him, and we therefore become more mindful and grateful for what He has done for us.

Knowing and seeing in this manner will only cause us to fear, reverence, and love Him even more!

Life without the fear of the LORD is unattainable because it is the fear of the LORD that leads to life, life in the Spirit and life eternal!

Chapter IX

“The LORD’s Goodness, Grace, and Mercy Cause Men to Fear Him”

*“I will make an everlasting covenant with them:
I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them
to fear me, so that they will never turn away from Me.”*

Jeremiah 32:40

In the Book of Jeremiah, “the weeping Prophet,” the LORD’s chosen people, particularly Judah *this time*, had “played” the harlot (Jeremiah 3:1) and turned their backs, rather than their faces, to the Most High God (Jeremiah 2:27). He was at a point of bringing charges against not only them, but their children’s children (Jeremiah 2:9), whereby He would use Babylon to punish Judah for their sin. In turning their backs to the LORD their God, Judah had forsaken Him, and the LORD makes it clear that they did not fear Him. In Jeremiah 2:19 Jehovah Sabaoth, declares:

“Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will reprove you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the LORD your God, and the fear of ME is not in you,’ says the LORD GOD of HOSTS.”

Moreover, in chapter 3, the LORD speaks to Jeremiah about “backsliding Israel” and how they played the harlot and as a result of not “returning to the LORD” as He commanded, He put them away and gave them a “certificate” of divorce. Why divorce? Why does the LORD use the term divorce?

Let’s remember that the LORD God was committed to all Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They have a covenant between them that can be likened unto the commitment or covenant made between a man and woman in marriage. The LORD God was and is married to Israel. He’s their nurturer, provider, and caretaker. Because of this, the LORD did not take kindly to their harlotry. Therefore, as in a marriage between a man and woman, when infidelity is an issue, and the unfaithful spouse has given their heart, affections, and commitment to another, or others, the covenant on their part, has been severed or broken.

So as a result of Israel’s continued harlotry through idolatry, deliberate sin, the LORD God gave them a certificate of divorce. Now, Judah saw this and “did not fear” but rather went and played the harlot also. It was so bad that there was not one found who sought truth and dealt honestly, not even the leaders (Jeremiah 5:4-5 and 5:12-13).

But in all of their sin, just as surely as the LORD would penalize them for their relentless disobedience and wickedness, He mercifully promised that He would not completely or utterly destroy them (Jeremiah 5:18).

*“‘Yet in those days,’ declares the LORD,
‘I will not destroy you completely.’”*

Because of the lack of godly fear, those who would be spared in the LORD's chastening would have to live as captives in Babylon for seventy years. But as the LORD God speaks of Judah's restoration, He makes a statement that reveals His future plans for them:

"I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from Me."

Jeremiah 32:37-40

Here we see the love/fear relationship, as illustrated earlier, being desired by our God with His people. Because our God is not a man that He should lie, and our God is Holy, there is no way that Judah could continually and willfully sin without consequence, as it is with His children today. But it is clear in Jeremiah 32 that the LORD wants to be feared and loved by those He has chosen, those He has favored, those he protects, provides for, and sustains. It is as simple as that. But lovers of God know that after the chastening of our Father, there is restoration. The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 130:3-4:

*"If you, oh LORD, kept a record of sins who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be feared."*

If the Father would only chasten His children and never restore us, or if He would cease from pouring His tangible love out on us, how then could we continually reverence, honor, love, and worship Him? Why or how could we fear Him? But, we do honor a God of love, a Father of restoration, full of compassion and mercy, who deserves to be feared because of who He is, and because He only wants and has the unreserved best for His children.

For just as surely as the people of God are brought into exile, the LORD will surely deliver them and bring them back to their land and do good to them, and then they will see and understand who He is and His never-ending love for them, moving them to fear and love Him with the desire to please Him.

In the book of Daniel, we see the LORD's hand in the affairs of men, Hebrew and Gentile. Most of us already know the story of Daniel and the lion's den. It is an exceptional account of the LORD's goodness, being that we see a miracle of God in the midst of what was meant for evil. But what happened as a result of the LORD's goodness is what I want to briefly call attention to.

By about 539 B.C. Daniel had already been promoted and renowned because of his wisdom and faithfulness to his God, the God of Israel. As Daniel was promoted by yet, another king, Darius the Mede, there were jealous rivals within the king's administration who plotted to persecute him. As they sought to find fault to charge Daniel, what they found was that he was blameless. In Daniel 6:5 the men said:

*"We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless
we find it against him concerning the law of his God."*

Well now, what a wonderful charge! Daniel was blameless. The only way these men could carry out their crafty scheme against him would be to use Daniel's faithfulness to his God and to deceive the king by appealing to his ego.

So they went before King Darius and told him that they had all come together, the governors, administrators, satraps, counselors, and advisors - to establish a statute and firm decree stating that if any person petitions any god or man for thirty days, except the king, they would be cast into the lion's den. Needless to say, Darius bought into it, approved and signed the decree, which meant by law, it could not be changed...not even by himself, the king. In chapter 6:10 it says:

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."

Just as Daniel's enemies knew, there was nothing that would stop Daniel from being faithful to his God. Daniel knew all about the decree, but the truth of the matter is that we serve the One True God so, evidently, in the heart and understanding of Daniel, this decree had nothing to do with him. In other words, that decree was of, by, and for the world and an earthly kingdom, but who Daniel ultimately served was not of this world and certainly not of any earthly kingdom. So Daniel went about life persistent in his convictions, just as he should have been, and was found "guilty" of blessing his God.

Consequently, when the bogus indictment was brought against Daniel, as much as King Darius regretted signing the decree and fought to get it overturned for Daniel's sake, he could not. Daniel was sentenced to death. But in the end God would be glorified. Daniel chapter 6:19-22 says:

"Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?' Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lion's mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him, and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.' "

After witnessing the LORD's miraculous power, His goodness and His faithfulness toward his beloved Daniel firsthand, King Darius inscribed a wise decree:

"To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the Living God, and steadfast forever..." Daniel 6: 25-26

Psalm 67:5-7 says:

"Let all the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

The LORD, our God is the Living God, just as King Darius stated! Our God is a merciful God! So whether or not we thoroughly understand how or why *stuff* happens, whether or not we totally see or comprehend His plan, or even why He'd allow unexpected difficulties to occur in our lives, He will be glorified! His goodness toward His people can, and will, cause men to fear Him!

Chapter X

So You Say You Fear the LORD?

*“So Satan answered the LORD and said
‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’”
Job 1:9*

The “great cloud of witnesses” described in Hebrews 11 have come down throughout Kingdom history as mighty men and women of faith. As we read each of their personal accounts in the Old Testament we will plainly see that these were not perfect people. Yes, they had ups and downs, tests, trials and triumphs just like us. But they were full of faith because they all feared God. They did not just say they had faith or, rather, trust in the LORD. No. Their fear of the LORD was put to the test and their trust was proven by their actions.

Consider Noah.

The Bible says, in Genesis 6:8, that *“Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”* Now most of us know that the LORD was grieved in His heart during that time because *“the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was continually evil.”* (Genesis 6:5) Then, as a result of man’s own wickedness, we know what came next...their destruction by the flood. But because Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD, he and his whole family would be spared. In order to be spared though, he had to do something. First, he had to believe the Word of God:

*“And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me,
for the earth is filled with violence through them;
I will destroy them with the earth.*

Make yourself an ark of gopher wood...

*And behold, I Myself am bringing the flood waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in
which is the breath of life; and everything on the earth shall die.*

*But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark- you, your sons, your wife, and
your son’s wives with you.”* Genesis 6:13, 17-18

Secondly, Noah had to carry out the LORD’s instructions, he had to be obedient. And, what he had to achieve would not be a piece of cake either. He would appear deranged, and there would be ridicule and persecution. And because of the very nature of his instructions from God, (come on, building a boat of massive proportions!) Noah would need to be steadfast, unmovable, with his mind made up to endure until the end. But despite these issues Hebrews 11:7 says:

*“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for
the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness
which is according to faith.”*

Noah was obedient. **Noah feared God.**

Consider Abraham.

In Genesis 12:1, God told Abraham (Abram then) to leave his country and to get away from his family. Wow! But with Abraham's obedience a promise would follow. In Genesis 12:2, God told him, *"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

Stepping out on faith, the Bible says that Abraham, along with his wife Sarah (Sarai then) and his nephew Lot, departed as the LORD had instructed him.

Now at that time Abraham was seventy-five years old. It would be some twenty-five years later, (that is, eight to nine chapters later), along with many other trials, tests and promises, before the tangible evidence of the "great nation" the LORD referred to in chapter 12 would be made manifest. Nevertheless, in Genesis 21, it is written that Abraham and Sarah's child of promise, Isaac, was born.

But...in the very next chapter, the LORD tests Abraham concerning that promise.

"Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Abraham did not tarry. The Bible goes on to say:

"So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off." Genesis 22:2-4

So... not only does the LORD tell Abraham to "offer" up or take the life of his son, but he also sends him to a place that is literally days away to do it! Abraham had ample time to reason within himself, deliberate, ponder, and/or contemplate these instructions from God, which also means he could have reneged, turned back and faced whatever consequences there would have been for not obeying the LORD. But the Bible makes it clear that Abraham had every intention of following the command of God. How could a man do such a thing?

Simply put - Abraham knew God. From Genesis 12 leading up to this very moment in Genesis 22, we witness the ever-evolving, intimate relationship between the LORD Almighty and Abraham. He had years of communicating with, loving and obeying God. He had personally walked and talked with the LORD and could vouch for the character, attributes, awesomeness, and majesty of God. *"He (Abraham) believed in the LORD, and He (Yah) accounted it to him for righteousness."* In other words, Abraham trusted God. He knew the LORD as Friend (James 2:23, Isaiah 41:8) and as Judge. Abraham knew God and God knew Abraham. They were so close that the LORD would even share His intentions with Abraham.

Remember Sodom and Gomorrah...and Lot's wife? Let's go back two and a half chapters before Isaac was born. In Genesis chapter 18:17-21 the LORD makes known to Abraham what is about to happen to these sinful cities:

“And the LORD said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him...’”

“And the LORD said (to Abraham), ‘because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me...’”

This is too good! In Psalm 25:14 the Psalmist David wrote:

*“The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him,
And He will show them His covenant.”*

This verse sums up Abraham and the LORD! God knew that Abraham feared Him so the foundation was laid for “right” relationship.

But how deep was their bond? Did Abraham fear and trust in the LORD that much? Enough to give Him the very promise he had been waiting for and trust that it would be alright in the end? Abraham told Isaac in Genesis 22:8 that God would provide the lamb for a burnt offering, though he did not know exactly what would happen. But he did know his God. So in Genesis 22:10-12 it states:

“Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham! ...Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me.’”

Now I would be remiss if I did not point out the extraordinary culmination of the LORD’s promises to Abraham. In Genesis chapter 22, after God delivers Isaac, the angel of the LORD calls out to Abraham a second time from heaven with another message from the LORD:

“By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of your enemies.

In your Seed all nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” Genesis 22:16-18

Bless the LORD, El Shaddai! Yes, Abraham had been obedient in the past but nothing compared to this. And because he feared God he was willing to honor God with Isaac, his greatest earthly treasure, and as a result, the LORD clarifies or spells out completely the promise of promises.

Jesus Messiah, our Savior and LORD, would be born the **Seed** of Abraham! (*Matthew 1: The Genealogy of Messiah; Galatians 4:16*) And now, “having predestined us to adoption as children by Jesus Messiah to Himself” by faith we too are descendants, the children of Abraham! (*But that’s another book within itself; Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 3:7*)

So, I ask, where did Abraham’s loyalty lie? When put to the test, did he love Isaac (*the promise, the blessing*) more than God? Was he willing to lay it down? Give it up? Let it die? Just be obedient and watch God? Yes, he was willing. Abraham worshiped God and God alone. He believed and received the

covenant promises of his God but he did not, in any way, worship the promise. In other words, nothing would take the place of God in Abraham's life...not even his son.

Abraham was obedient. **Abraham feared God.**

Finally, Let's Consider Yeshua, Jesus Messiah, The Only Begotten Son of God.

"So also the Messiah did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: 'You are My Son; today I have begotten You.' As He also says in another place: 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek'; who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." Hebrews 5:5-8

Jesus feared God. He was about His Father's business. In His entire time here on earth, being without sin, He fully epitomized the true Fear of God, as He always spoke of doing the will of His Father. At the age of twelve, when He was mistakenly left in Jerusalem by His earthly parents and they went back and found Him, what He said to them was:

"Why is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" Luke 2:49

In John 6:38, He said:

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

Then in John 8:28-29, He said:

"When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

As stated earlier, the Word of the LORD was given in Isaiah 11:1-3, confirming the coming of Jesus and that He would, indeed, fear the LORD.

Jesus, the God fearer, is the Way. He is the Son of God and the Son of man. How could He come, be the blameless Lamb of God and perfect sacrifice, and not Fear God His Father?

This would not have been possible for the One sent down by God. Our LORD and Savior was and is our example of who we are to be in Him, and what we are to become through Him.

Hear the Word of the LORD as He prays to our Father shortly before His torturous death:

*"Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him."
"I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."*

John 17:1-2,4-5

Jesus went to the cross. Our LORD Jesus was obedient. Yeshua, the only begotten Son of God, King of Kings, and Savior of the whole world, feared God.

A Testimony...

Back in college I pledged a very well known sorority. At that time in my life I was a praying church-going girl who was getting to know God as Father. I had experienced answered prayer, and had seen the LORD's hand in my life. Though I did not know much, I did fear God and I praise Him that fearing Him is the *beginning of wisdom*.

When I entered college, I sincerely knew nothing about Greek letter organizations. I was "green" in that area, so pledging was nothing I ever aspired to do. Nevertheless, I had other friends who were a part of this particular sorority, so when invited to a Rush, I went.

When I saw all of those ambitious, goal-oriented, intelligent women on what seemed to be one accord, it was very persuasive. I liked the things they were saying and what they believed, but what really won me over, or made me feel comfortable with the organization, was the Christian motto. Needless to say, I pledged.

After pledging, a series of things happened in my life, spiritual things that weren't so good. The cause of these spiritual issues would be revealed to me years later...*but, here again, that's for another book!*

After graduating college, I still loved to wear my Greek letter paraphernalia. Anyone who came to my home, or saw our vehicle, knew I was a part of this sorority, I esteemed it highly. But one day...something changed.

During that time, while in my early-twenties, I was a part of a gospel singing group, *as usual*. One of the members of the group was leaving my house, a sister in the LORD who was older and wiser than me (in more ways than one). We were in a conversation while walking to her car and the fact that she had also pledged a sorority in college came up. Surprised, I asked her was she still "active"...or actively involved, and she told me "no." I then asked her "why?" and she simply stated, while looking directly in my eyes with a big smile,

"It's not of God."

(...WHAT?!!)

Well... I mildly replied..."oh." But inside, that statement had cut me like a knife, a very sharp knife, might I add!

I could not get those words out of my head and I definitely did not take her statement lightly.

Well, as a result of those four words, **"It's not of God,"** my affections for the organization changed instantly, and fear, the good fear, the fear of the LORD, came over me. I did not quite understand how or why it was not of God, but those words did just what my Father wanted them to do at that particular time and place, on that particular day. The seed was planted and I could not *whole-heartedly* give myself to it anymore. So, I backed off. I had not become active in the local alumnae chapter yet, though I had

attended a few meetings, but after that moment, I was doubtful about being involved on any level, ever again.

I am confident that sister was used by God to plant the seed of righteousness with those four words back then. I also know now that it was the fear of the LORD, and the fact that my fear of Him was greater than my love or affections for that sorority, that caused me to back away from the organization, seek Him more, then eventually, years later, when the truth of the ungodliness was revealed by the Spirit of God, renounce the organization altogether.

This may not seem like a big deal to some, but for me it was one of the more crucial moments in my walk with God, and I knew, somehow, that it was. The **fear of the LORD** brought about a willingness to move away from what was not of Him in order to draw me closer to Him.

Yes, I've had other tests and crossroads since then and I certainly will not claim that I have not missed the mark. But I understand that *"the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith"* (Romans 1:17) and *"we who are in the LORD are all being transformed into His image from glory to glory."* (2 Corinthians 3:18) So I count it a privilege and I praise the LORD for those tests because each time it is by His Spirit in the fear of the LORD, and all that that includes, that I am strengthened and given the boldness to stand in obedience...even when it hurts.

Saint of God, when we profess the LORD having the "mind of Messiah," and say we walk in the fear of the LORD, there will be "moments of truth" in our lives that will test that fear - just like Noah, just like Abraham, just like Daniel, just like Job, and many other Saints of old and new - and ultimately, just like the LORD Jesus, the Messiah. But in obedience, in the fear of the LORD, there is always great reward.

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Corinthians 7:1

Chapter XI

Promises

To Those Who Fear the "Promise Keeper"

"But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness unto his children's children; To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them."

Psalm 103:17-18

I will conclude with the many verses in the Word of God that tell of the promises of God to those who fear Him. Those who fear Him know that He cannot lie. We know that there is none like Him. We see His brand new mercies daily and rejoice in knowing that His mercy endures forever. When thinking about the attributes of our Only Wise God, truly a river of joy floods my soul. He is so kind and loving, and those who truly taste of His goodness find it easy to reciprocate that love. When we love others - our spouses, our children, our families and our close friends - we go to great lengths to show them. We also take great care in being truthful with them and true to them. That's only though, when we sincerely love them.

Should it not be even more with our beautiful God, the faithful Father who so graciously gave Himself in the form of a man, His Son and our Savior Jesus, to die for us while we were "yet sinners," not even mindful of Him? Fear the LORD, our God, who continually loves us completely. Worship Him who has made heaven and earth! True worship is to reverence the LORD always and at all times, thereby expressing our love for Him. For those who love Him, He's always on our minds. We desire to please Him, to walk in obedience and bring Him pleasure.

If you, who say with your lips that the LORD God of Israel is your God through Jesus our Savior, have not been walking in the fear of the LORD, loving Him with your whole heart, reverencing Him in all you do and say - just go ahead and humbly repent, turn to Him and confess your sins, and He will forgive and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Then, stay there, stay humble, stay pure in heart, stay poor in spirit; stay or abide in the vine, the LORD our Savior, because doing so will keep you (us) in the Fear of the LORD.

Continually give honor and reverence to the All-Powerful Ancient of Days! Fear the LORD Saint(s)! There is no want to those who Fear Him (Psalm 34:9)!

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter (Life):

*Fear God and keep His commandments:
for this is the WHOLE duty of man."*

Ecclesiastes 12: 13

Omega

"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant." Psalm 25:14

"Oh how great is your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which you have prepared for those who trust in You, in the presence of the sons of men!" Psalm 31:19

"Behold the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine." Psalm 33: 18-19

"The Angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them." "Oh fear the LORD you His Saints; there is no want to those who fear Him." Psalm 34: 7 & 9

"Surely His salvation is near to them that fear Him; that glory may dwell in our land" Psalm 85:9

"...great is His mercy toward them that fear Him." Psalm 103:11b

"...the LORD pities them that fear Him." Psalm 103:13b

Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD; who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on the earth, the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house; and his righteousness endures forever." Psalm 112:1-3

"He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great."

Psalm 115:13

"The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them." Psalm 145: 18-19

"The fear of the LORD prolongs days..." Proverbs 10: 27

"In the fear of the LORD, there is strong confidence and His children **will have a place of refuge**; The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to avoid the snares of death." Proverbs 14: 26-27

"Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure with trouble." Proverbs 15:16

"The fear of the LORD Leads to Life and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; and he will not be visited with evil." Proverbs 19:23

"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life." Proverbs 22:4

"Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30

"Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the LORD honor His name." Malachi 3:16

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them a fire, ‘says the LORD Almighty.’ ‘Not a root or a branch will be left to them.’” Malachi 4:1

“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. And you will go free leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture (from the stall).” Malachi 4:2

MORE “FEAR OF THE LORD” VERSES

“But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ” Exodus 1:17

“And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.” Exodus 1:21

“And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.” Exodus 14:31

“Moreover you shall provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens...” Exodus 18:21

“Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:14

“Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 25:17

“Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!” Deuteronomy 5:29

“These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.” Deuteronomy 6:1-2

“Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.” Deuteronomy 6:13

“The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.” Deuteronomy 6:24

“I feared the anger and wrath of the Lord, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the Lord listened to me.” Deuteronomy 9:19

“And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to

observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?" Deuteronomy 10:12-13

"Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name." Deuteronomy 10:20

"You shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him." Deuteronomy 13:4

"Assemble the people--men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns--so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 31:12

"Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess." Deuteronomy 31:13

"For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God." Joshua 4:23-24

"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord." Joshua 24:14

"If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God, good! But if you do not obey the Lord, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your fathers." I Samuel 12:14-15

"But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you." I Samuel 12:24

"The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me, He that rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. II Samuel 23:3-4

"But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies. II Kings 17:39

"And they smote all the cities round about Gerar, **for the fear of the LORD** came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them." II Chronicles 14:14

"They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of the Lord; they went around to all the towns of Judah and taught the people. The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, so that they did not make war with Jehoshaphat." II Chronicles 17:9-10

"Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of bribes" II Chronicles 19:7

“And he charged them saying, ‘Thus you shall do this in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a loyal heart: In every case that comes before you from your fellow countrymen who live in the cities--whether bloodshed or other concerns of the law, commands, decrees or ordinances--you are to warn them not to sin against the LORD; otherwise his wrath will come on you and your brothers. Do this, and you will not sin.’” II Chronicles 19:9-10

“And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.” II Chronicles 20:29

“So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?” Nehemiah 5:9

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.” Job 1:1

“And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and avoids evil?’ Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’” Job 1:8-9

“And unto man he said “Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.” Job 28:28

Men do therefore fear him: he respects not any that are wise of heart.
Job 37:24

“Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may now themselves to be but men. Selah” Psalm 9:20

“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.” Psalm 19:9

“You who fear the LORD, Praise Him; all you the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all you the seed of Israel.” Psalm 22:23

“My praise shall be of You in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear Him.”
Psalm 22:25

“Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.” Psalm 25:12

“The transgression of the wicked says within my heart that there is no fear of God before his eyes.” Psalm 36:1

“And he has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.” Psalm 40:3

“And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider His doing.”
Psalm 64: 9

“Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul.” Psalm 66:16

“God will bless us and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.”

Psalm 67: 7

“They shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.” Psalm 72:5

“You Yourself, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence when once you are angry? You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared and was still.” Psalm 76: 7-8

“Let not your heart envy sinners: but stay in the fear of the LORD all day long.” Proverbs 23:17

“And His mercy is on those Him who fear Him from generation to generation.” Luke 1:50

“One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him; ‘aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don’t you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence?’” Luke 23:39-40

“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.” Colossians 3:22

“Wherefore we receiving a Kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 13:29

“And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your sojourning here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Messiah, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” I Peter 1:17-18

“Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.” I Peter 2:17

“Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.’” Revelation 14:6-7

“Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.” Revelation 15:4

“Then a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all you servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!’” Revelation 19:5

