

REDISCOVERING THE FEAR OF YAHWEH



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AUTHOR'S NOTES

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Our heavenly Father has a personal, revealed Name – Yahweh.

Though occurring 6,823 times in the original Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament, it has been replaced in most English versions of the Bible by a generic title – “the Lord”. Similarly, the promised Messiah of Israel has a Hebrew Name – Yahshua – which literally means “Salvation of Yah” or “Yah is Salvation”. In order to be as faithful as possible to the original Scriptures, the proper Hebrew Names and titles of Yahweh and Yahshua have been restored where applicable.

For an in-depth study on this topic, please request our free booklet entitled “In the Name of the Father”

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REDISCOVERING THE FEAR OF YAHWEH

“The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life, turning people from the snares of death.” (Pro. 14:27)

Introduction

Fear. That is a word that carries strong negative connotations for most people. And yet Scripture uses it over and over again in reference to Yahweh Almighty.

In the modern world people are much more likely to fear almost anything rather than Yahweh. They have a fear of the future, of disease, of people, of failure, of loneliness, of uncertainty, and of death. But few have a fear of the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

A true, biblical fear of Yahweh has largely been lost even in the body of Messiah, particularly in the western hemisphere. It has been misplaced, neglected, forgotten, or ignored. Sadly, the majority of the blame for that falls squarely at the feet of ministry leaders, who have not taught it or modeled it in their own lives.

It’s time for us to get “back to basics” and develop a good, healthy fear of Yahweh. As we will see, it impacts virtually every area of our life and walk.

The Beginning of Wisdom

The fear³³⁷⁴ of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom; But the foolish despise wisdom and instruction. (Pro. 1:7)

Strong’s Concordance defines *yiráh*³³⁷⁴ as “fear, terror, fearing; awesome or terrifying thing (object causing fear), respect, reverence, to fear exceedingly”. It derives from another Hebrew word, *yaréh*³³⁷² “to fear, revere, be afraid; to stand or be held in awe of, reverence, honour,

respect; to cause astonishment and awe, to inspire reverence or godly fear or awe.

So this ‘fear of Yahweh’ is a deep, abiding reverence for Him. It is recognizing how awesome and awe-inspiring He really is. According to the above verse, this is the beginning of wisdom, yet the foolish despise wisdom and instruction, which means that they also despise the ‘fear of Yahweh’, as it is the beginning – the source – of wisdom.

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Pro. 9:10)

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. All those who do His work have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! (Psa. 111:10)

Our reverence for Him will bring us to a place of wisdom, and as we do His work we will develop a good understanding. This seems counterintuitive. We tend to think that we have to have a good understanding before we do anything; that we have to understand the ‘why’ of keeping His commandments before we do them. But the truth is that we gain understanding as we obey Him.

A true, Biblical fear of Yahweh will govern how we live. It is obedience, not just in keeping His written commandments, but also in how we respond to the voice of the Spirit! Perhaps that is why so many mainstream denominations don’t want to believe that ‘God’ still speaks today – because that acknowledgement carries with it the implicit realization that hearing His voice requires a response. It requires obedience!

Isn’t it interesting that none of the Biblical patriarchs ever possessed a copy of what we call ‘the Bible’, yet they knew full-well what it meant to be disobedient to Yahweh? Adam and Eve disobeyed a spoken command and it was considered sin. Moses disobeyed a spoken command at Meribah and lost his right to enter the Promised Land.

Jacob (‘James’) said “if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of Yahweh, who gives to all liberally and without reproach; and it will be given him” (Jacob 1:5). If the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, then asking for wisdom means we’re also asking for a greater level of fear (or reverence) for Him! How many of us are willing to do that?

Why Fear Yahweh?

Why should we fear Yahweh? The simple answer is that we should fear Him because He is holy. The prophet Isaiah reveals this truth:

For Yahweh spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, ¹² Don't you say, "A conspiracy!" concerning all whereof this people shall say, "A conspiracy!" neither fear their fear, nor be in dread [of it]. ¹³ Yahweh of hosts, Him you should regard as holy; and let Him be your fear⁴¹⁷², and let Him be your dread⁶²⁰⁶. (Isa. 8:11-13)

There are several additional words in the original Hebrew Scriptures that are translated as 'fear'. One is *mo-ráh*⁴¹⁷² – fear, terror; reverence; object of reverence; awe-inspiring spectacle or deed. A second is *ah-rätz*⁶²⁰⁶ – to tremble, dread, or fear.

As believers we shouldn't fear the things that other people fear, the conspiracies, the machinations of evil men, or the things of this world. Rather, we should let Yahweh be our fear and our dread – because He is holy.

Generally speaking, we have become lax in our understanding of and appreciation for Yahweh's holy nature. Too many professing believers seem to perceive Him as a kindly grandfather who never gets angry and exists primarily to dole out goodies. We love His positive attributes: His love, His grace, His mercy, His forgiveness, His patience. But do we also love His infinite holiness, His uncompromising righteousness?

The Biblical patriarchs and prophets understood the fear of Yahweh, and when they encountered His holy presence they had a visceral reaction to it. Abraham, Joshua, and Ezekiel all fell on their faces (see Gen. 17:3, Josh. 5:14, Eze. 1:28, 3:23, 9:8, etc.); Moses hid his face (Exo. 3:6) and Isaiah thought he was "undone" (Isa. 6:5). Even Balaam, in the midst of his rebellion, fell flat on his face when he encountered the angel of Yahweh (Num. 22:31).

Fear Him for Who He Is

Yahweh is worthy of our fear – our reverence – simply because of Who He is. He is great and there is none other like Him.

There is none like You, Yahweh; You are great, and Your Name

is great in might. ⁷ Who should not fear You, King of the nations? For it is Your due! Because among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their royal estate, there is none like You. (Jer. 10:6-7)

This world is full of false gods and false religions, but Yahweh is the true and living Elohim^a. He is due our reverence because He is great. This passage in Jeremiah goes on to say:

Yahweh is the true Elohim; He is the living Elohim, and an everlasting King: at His wrath the earth trembles, and the nations are not able to abide His indignation. ¹¹ Thus shall you say to them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, these shall perish from the earth, and from under the heavens. ¹² He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, and by His understanding has He stretched out the heavens: ¹³ when He utters His voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings for the rain, and brings forth the wind out of His treasuries. (Jer. 10:10-13)

We often lose sight of Yahweh's greatness and His majesty in the press of our busy lives and all of the challenges that this modern world presents. We need a fresh revelation of how awesome Yahweh really is! We think earthquakes and hurricanes are powerful; but they are nothing in comparison to the very One who created the heavens and the earth by His Word and His power!

By the word of Yahweh were the heavens made, All the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap. He lays up the deeps in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear Yahweh. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. ⁹ For He spoke, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood firm. (Psalm 33:6-9)

Yahweh demonstrates His majestic character through His wondrous works – not only through the works of Creation but also of redemption and forgiveness of sin.

^a eh-lo-HEEM, Hebrew for 'God'

Out of the depths I have cried to You, Yahweh. ² Adonai^b, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my petitions. ³ If You, Yah, kept a record of sins, Adonai, who could stand? ⁴ But there is forgiveness with You, Therefore You are feared. (Psalm 130:1-4)

Imagine where we would be if there was no forgiveness of sin? What if our heavenly Father kept a tally of all of our sins and we had no possible way of having the slate wiped clean? Who could possibly stand?

He has caused His wonderful works to be remembered. Yahweh is gracious and merciful. ⁵ He has given food to those who fear Him. He always remembers His covenant. ⁶ He has shown His people the power of His works, In giving them the heritage of the nations. ⁷ The works of His hands are truth and justice. All His precepts are sure. ⁸ They are established forever and ever. They are done in truth and uprightness. ⁹ He has sent redemption to His people. He has ordained His covenant forever. His Name is holy and awesome! (Psalm 111:4-9)

Choosing the Fear of Yahweh

According to Scripture, having a healthy fear of Yahweh is a choice. And when we choose the fear of Yahweh it will cause us to depart from evil and to walk in His ways.

Turn at My reproof. Behold, I will pour out My spirit on you. I will make known My words to you. ²⁴ Because I have called, and you have refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no one has paid attention; ²⁵ But you have ignored all My counsel, And wanted none of My reproof; ²⁶ I also will laugh at your disaster. I will mock when calamity overtakes you; ²⁷ When calamity overtakes you like a storm, When your disaster comes on like a whirlwind; When distress and anguish come on you. ²⁸ Then will they call on Me, but I will not answer. They will seek Me diligently, but they will not find Me; ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge, And didn't choose the fear of Yahweh. ³⁰ They wanted none of My counsel. They despised all My reproof. ³¹

^b ad-oh-NAI, Hebrew for 'my Lord'

Therefore they will eat of the fruit of their own way, And be filled with their own schemes.³² For the backsliding of the simple will kill them. The careless ease of fools will destroy them.³³ But whoever listens to Me will dwell securely, And will be at ease, without fear of harm. (Pro. 1:23-33)

Notice that Yahweh equates hating knowledge (of Him and His ways) with not choosing the fear of Yahweh. Rebellious people don't want His counsel and they despise holy reproof. But when we deliberately choose the fear of Yahweh, we will seek Him diligently and choose to abide by His counsel. We will be open to His reproof.

A Fear that Propels

Many people think of fear as something that paralyzes. But true reverential fear of Yahweh actually propels us into action.

By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (Hebr. 11:7)

Notice that Noah's godly fear was not a paralyzing fear; it was a compelling fear, a propelling fear. It moved him to take action, and this action was an act of obedience – and it was an act of faith!

Likewise Yahshua was driven by this intense reverence for Yahweh. The book of Isaiah records this prophecy about the promised Messiah:

There shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit.² The Spirit of Yahweh shall rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh.³ His delight shall be in the fear of Yahweh; and He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither decide after the hearing of His ears;⁴ but with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and decide with equity for the humble of the earth; (Isa. 11:1-4a)

This passage is clearly a Messianic prophecy. From it we glean that seven 'spirits' were to rest upon the Messiah, not the least of which is "the spirit of the fear of Yahweh." In fact, verse 3 singles out that

particular aspect of the Spirit – “His delight shall be in the fear of Yahweh”. Yahshua actually delights in the fear or reverence of His Father. We might recall that at the tender age of twelve He boldly asked his earthly parents: “Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?” (Luke 2:49, MKJV). He was driven by a desire to accomplish His Father’s purpose in the earth.

These seven spiritual endowments, in turn, govern how He administers justice – not after the sight of His eyes or the hearing of His ears, but with righteousness and equity. The governments of men can be corrupt, unjust, and unfair; not so the government of Yahweh as administered by Messiah!

Many professing believers say they want more wisdom. But as we’ve already seen, the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. In other words, they go hand-in-hand.

My son, if you will receive My words, And store up My commandments within you; ² So as to turn your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you call out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding; ⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures: ⁵ **Then you will understand the fear of Yahweh,** And find the knowledge of Elohim. (Pro. 2:1-5)

The earnest pursuit of more biblical wisdom means receiving His words and storing up His commandments within us. It means turning our ear to wisdom and applying our heart to understanding. It means seeking and searching as if for hidden treasure. This will inevitably lead to a greater understanding of the fear – the reverence – of Yahweh!

Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, And don’t lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will direct your paths. ⁷ Don’t be wise in your own eyes. **Fear Yahweh,** and **depart from evil.** ⁸ It will be health to your body, And nourishment to your bones. ⁹ Honor Yahweh with your substance, With the first fruits of all your increase: ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. (Pro. 3:5-10)

The passage above shows that a true reverence for Yahweh will cause us to depart from evil and will be health to our bodies and nourishment to our bones. It will cause us to want to honor Him with all

of our substance, which in turn will lead to reciprocal blessings of abundance.

The Bible defines the fear of Yahweh this way:

The fear of Yahweh is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth, do I hate” (Pro. 8:13)

The fear of Yahweh is clean (pure), enduring forever. The ordinances of Yahweh are true, and righteous altogether. (Psa. 19:9)

The fear of Yahweh will cause us to despise those things that are abhorrent in His sight, including evil, pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth. It is clean and pure, without corruption, deceit, or ulterior motives.

After Yahweh brought the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt, one of the first things He did was to manifest Himself in a spectacular way to them at Mount Sinai and give them the 10 Commandments.

All the people perceived the thunderings, the lightnings, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. When the people saw it, they trembled, and stayed at a distance. ¹⁹ They said to Moses, “Speak with us yourself, and we will listen; but don’t let Elohim speak with us, lest we die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Don’t be afraid, for Elohim has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, that you won’t sin.” ²¹ The people stayed at a distance, and Moses drew near to the thick darkness where Elohim was. (Exo. 20:18-21)

There is an interesting paradox in this passage. Moses tells the people “don’t be afraid”, yet immediately follows that with “Elohim has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, that you won’t sin.” How do we make sense of this?

The Israelites had a carnal reaction to Yahweh’s manifest presence – they feared for their lives and this caused them to shrink back rather than draw closer to Him. The reality is that Yahweh doesn’t want His people living in a state of carnal fear of Him, but He does want them living in deep spiritual reverence before Him.

When we have the proper attitude and respect for Him, then we won’t sin, and we will want to be close to Him. Though the people

remained at a distance, Moses drew near to the thick darkness where Yahweh was.

The Shema and the Fear of Yahweh

Hear, O Israel: Yahweh is our Elohim; Yahweh is one: ⁵ and you shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶ These words, which I command you this day, shall be on your heart; ⁷ and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them for a sign on your hand, and they shall be for symbols between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the door-posts of your house, and on your gates. (Deut. 6:4-9)

This passage of Scripture has been considered the statement of faith of the Jewish people for millennia. It is known as the ‘Shema’, taken from the first word in Hebrew of the passage, which means ‘hear’ or ‘listen’. What is particularly relevant for our discussion are some verses preceding and following it.

Now this is the commandment, the statutes, and the ordinances, which Yahweh your Elohim commanded to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you go over to possess it; ² that you might fear Yahweh your Elohim, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you, you, and your son, and your son’s son, all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged. (Deut. 6:1-2)

These verses provide the context in which the Shema was given. Again we see that the fear of Yahweh and obedience go hand-in-hand. The Shema encapsulates the heart attitude of Yahweh’s people: it is based out of a deep reverence for Him.

Just a few verses later we read a stern warning to the Israelites not to forget Yahweh or go after other gods.

Then beware lest you forget Yahweh, who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ¹³ You shall fear Yahweh your Elohim; and Him shall you serve, and shall swear by His Name. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other elohim, of the

elohim of the peoples who are round about you; ¹⁵ for Yahweh your Elohim in the midst of you is a jealous Elohim; lest the anger of Yahweh your Elohim be kindled against you, and He destroy you from off the face of the earth. ¹⁶ You shall not tempt Yahweh your Elohim, as you tempted Him in Massah. (v12-16)

Again, the key to this warning is the fear of Yahweh. With a proper reverence for Him, the Israelites would not go after other gods. A few chapters later we read what Yahweh required of Israel. Notice the very first thing mentioned:

Now, Israel, what does Yahweh your Elohim require of you, but to fear Yahweh your Elohim, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ to keep the commandments of Yahweh, and His statutes, which I command you this day for your good? (Deut. 10:12-13)

Yahweh actually required that Israel fear Him. This was not a carnal, trembling kind of fear – it was a deep reverence for Him that would govern how they lived their lives. If they revered Him, then they would walk in His ways, love Him, and serve Him with all their heart and all their soul.

A False Fear of Yahweh

In 2 Kings we find a fascinating account of people who give lip service to the fear of Yahweh. This was after the carrying away of Israel to Assyria:

The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Avva, and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they possessed Samaria, and lived in the cities of it.

²⁵ So it was, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they didn't fear Yahweh: therefore Yahweh sent lions among them, which killed some of them. ²⁶ Therefore they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which you have carried away, and placed in the cities of Samaria, don't know the law of the elohim of the land: therefore he has sent lions among them, and, behold, they kill them, because they don't know the law of the

elohim of the land. ²⁷ Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry there one of the priests whom you brought from there; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the law of the elohim of the land. (2 Kings 17:24-27)

Notice that these were foreigners who were brought in to inhabit Samaria instead of the children of Israel. But because they didn't fear (reverence) Yahweh, He sent lions among them that killed some of them. The king's counselors recognized the problem and told him. He in turn commanded that they bring one of the priests of Israel back to Samaria in order to teach the immigrants the law (Torah) of Yahweh.

So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear Yahweh. ²⁹ However every nation made elohim of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived. ³⁰ The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima, ³¹ and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burnt their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the elohim of Sepharvaim.

So they feared Yahweh, and made to them from among themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places. ³³ They feared Yahweh, and served their own elohim, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away. ³⁴ To this day they do after the former manner: they don't fear Yahweh, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law or after the commandment which Yahweh commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel; (2 Kings 17:28-34)

Notice that theirs was a false or improper fear of Yahweh. It was a fear taught of men (v28). The proof that it wasn't true fear or reverence was this: they still worshipped other 'gods' and did not keep Yahweh's commandments, statutes, and ordinances! In fact, it was "blended worship" – they "served their own elohim, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away" (v33).

So these nations feared Yahweh, and served their engraved images; their children likewise, and their children's children, as did their fathers, so do they to this day. (2 Kings 17:41)

Sadly, we see this exact same mentality and attitude in much of mainstream Christianity today. People think – and are taught – that they can worship the Creator of the heavens and the earth in whatever manner they choose, as long as they claim to love Him. Yet Yahshua Himself said “Yahweh is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in Spirit and truth**” (John 4:24).

Incidentally, this passage in 2 Kings also carries a strong warning for us today, particularly in the United States, as more and more people embrace “foreign gods” while giving lip-service to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Yahweh said, Because this people draw near [to Me], and with their mouth and with their lips to honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and **their fear of Me is a commandment of men** which has been taught [them]; (Isa. 29:13)

We must learn to walk with single-hearted commitment in all the ways of Yahweh:

Teach me Your way, Yahweh. I will walk in Your truth. **Make my heart undivided to fear Your Name.** (Psa. 86:11)

Is that our prayer as believers, to have a heart undivided to fear His Name? Or do we continue to ‘halt’ or ‘limp’ between two opinions?

Elijah came near to all the people, and said, How long go you limping between the two sides? If Yahweh is Elohim (God), follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him. The people answered him not a word. (1 Kings 18:21)

It is so easy for us as believers to become complacent in our walk. One of the areas where it may be most easily seen is in our worship. Yet a true, reverential fear of Yahweh will actually lead us to praise and worship of Him!

But as for me, in the abundance of your lovingkindness I will come into Your house: I will bow toward Your holy temple in **reverence** (fear) of You. (Psa. 5:7)

Worship Yahweh in holy array. Tremble (fear) before Him, all the earth. (Psa. 96:9)

When we have a genuine fear of Yahweh, it will govern not just our personal lives but also our attitude toward the local assembly and Yahweh's people. It will affect how we enter and exit His sanctuary; it will affect our punctuality, our attitude, and how we dress; it will also affect how we behave in His house – in praise and worship, in attentiveness to the preaching of the Word, in how we treat others, in the words we speak, and in how we flow in the gifts of the Spirit. Out of our reverence for Him, we won't want to do or say anything to offend His Spirit, nor will we want to de-edify anyone else or cause them to stumble. In short, it will govern how we relate to one another.

House of Levi, praise Yahweh! You who fear Yahweh, praise Yahweh! (Psa. 135:20)

You who fear Yahweh, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him! Stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel! (Psa. 22:23)

Recall that one of the meanings of the Hebrew word *yaréh* is “to stand or be held in awe of”. Do we truly stand in awe of Yahweh? If not, then what we need is a real encounter with Him, something that will jar us out of our complacency. We need an encounter like the one Jacob had!

Jacob's Encounter

Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place, and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones of the place, and put it under his head, and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² He dreamed. Behold, a stairway set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. Behold, the angels of Elohim ascending and descending on it.

Behold, Yahweh stood above it, and said, “I am Yahweh, the Elohim of Abraham your father, and the Elohim of Isaac. The land whereon you lie, to you will I give it, and to your seed. ¹⁴ Your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you, and will keep you, wherever you go, and will bring you again into this land. For I will not leave

you, until I have done that which I have spoken of to you.”

Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, “Surely Yahweh is in this place, and I didn’t know it.”¹⁷ He was afraid, and said, “How dreadful (yaréh) is this place! This is none other than the house of Elohim, and this is the gate of heaven.”

Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil on the top of it.¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Jacob vowed a vow, saying, “If Elohim will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and clothing to put on,²¹ so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, and Yahweh will be my Elohim,²² then this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, will be Elohim’s house. Of all that you will give me I will surely give the tenth to you.” (Gen. 28:10-22)

Unlike the later encounter of the Israelites at Mt. Sinai, here there was no thunder or lightning, no fire or trumpet, and no quaking of the earth. Yahweh came quietly to Jacob in a dream and spoke gentle promises to him. Yet Jacob didn’t need to be told to ‘fear Yahweh’ – it was a natural reaction to the sudden realization that ‘Surely Yahweh is in this place, and I didn’t know it!’

How often do people go to the local assembly with no real sense of reverence, with no real expectation of encountering Yahweh there, with no anticipation that their lives and situations are about to be radically transformed? Or how often do they go looking for the tangible manifestation of His presence – the ‘thunder and lightning’ or ‘fire’ – when He is showing up in a different yet equally powerful way, in quiet assurance and peace? It is sad and tragic that, whether in the local assembly or outside of it, we live so much of our lives blissfully unaware of His presence!

Jacob’s fear of Yahweh compelled him to action: first he dedicated the place of his encounter, and then he made a solemn vow to honor Yahweh with a tithe of all of his future substance. This encounter didn’t just affect him for a day or two – it continued to impact him for the rest of his life.

Reverential Fear Brings Change

Many of us in this walk have been perplexed by the seeming

inability of some professing believers to change, regardless of how much they're exposed to the preaching and teaching of the pure, unadulterated Word.

Why is this? The reality is that people will not change without a genuine reverential fear of Yahweh.

Elohim, who is enthroned forever, Will hear, and answer them. Selah. They never change who don't fear Elohim. He raises his hands against his friends. He has violated his covenant. His mouth was smooth as butter, But his heart was war. His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords. Cast your burden on Yahweh, and He will sustain you. He will never allow the righteous to be moved. (Psa. 55:19-22)

Those who don't fear Elohim don't change and they go against His commandments. On the other hand, a true, reverential fear of Yahweh will bring breakthrough in people's lives because they are committed to walking in His ways.

As discussed earlier Yahshua had and operated out of "the Spirit of the fear of Yahweh" (Isaiah 11:2-3). If He is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" and we've got His Spirit within us, then we're going to have and operate out of that same place of deep, abiding reverence for Yahweh! We will walk in obedience and will experience breakthrough. "And I will walk at liberty: for I seek Your precepts" (Psalm 119:45). This meshes with what the apostle Paul wrote: "Now Yahweh is the Spirit: and where the Spirit of Yahweh is, there is liberty." (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Paul went on to exhort us: "Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Elohim" (2 Cor. 7:1).

Judging Righteously

Righteous judgment occurs when people fear Yahweh. Consider this advice that Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, gave to him in choosing elders:

Moreover you shall provide of all the people able men, such as fear Elohim: men of truth, hating unjust gain; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. (Exo. 18:21)

This was wise counsel. He was telling Moses to choose leaders who were able, based upon their reverence for Elohim. Too often it seems that leaders are chosen based upon ability alone, rather than the greater attribute of their fear of Yahweh.

Likewise, in his last words on this earth, King David identified a righteous ruler of men as one “who rules in the fear of Elohim” (2 Samuel 23:3).

This principle is highlighted by some instructions that Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, gave to men that he appointed as judges in His kingdom:

Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem: and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill-country of Ephraim, and brought them back to Yahweh, the Elohim of their fathers.⁵ He set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city,⁶ and said to the judges, Consider what you do: for you don't judge for man, but for Yahweh; and [He is] with you in the judgment.⁷ Now therefore let the fear of Yahweh be on you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with Yahweh our Elohim, nor respect of persons, nor taking of bribes.⁸ Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites and the priests, and of the heads of the fathers' [houses] of Israel, for the judgment of Yahweh, and for controversies. They returned to Jerusalem.⁹ He charged them, saying, Thus shall you do in the fear of Yahweh, faithfully, and with a perfect heart. (2 Chr. 19:4-9)

How different would the nations of the earth be if those in positions of authority operated in the fear of Yahweh, serving faithfully and with perfect hearts? How differently would they act if they realized that they weren't judging for man but for Yahweh?

On a more personal level, our reverence for Yahweh will affect how we judge different situations and circumstances in life. It is important to understand that biblical judgment does not mean condemnation – it means a “setting straight”. When we judge for Yahweh – when we speak or act in His Name – we better have a true fear of Him! We can't be lazy or lackadaisical. This is especially true among the ordained leaders within the Body of Messiah. If there is no fear of Yahweh in the pulpit, there will be no fear of Yahweh among the people!

Perhaps that is why the modern Western 'church' is in the condition that it is: there are few absolute standards of right and wrong anymore. Much of the problem stems from an improper understanding of “judge

not lest you be judged” (Matt. 7:1). In making this declaration Yahshua wasn’t saying that we are never to make a judgment about anything; He was making a statement about judging hypocritically (see v2-5). Without any standards, every man will do what is right in his own eyes. Yahshua also said:

Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment (John 7:24)

This aligns with the prophecy given about Him from Isaiah 11:

He won’t judge by the sight of His eyes or the hearing of His ears (Isaiah 11:3)

The Plumb Line

Thus He showed me and, behold, the Sovereign stood beside a wall made by a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. ⁸ Yahweh said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Sovereign said, “Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel. I will not again pass by them any more. ⁹ The high places of Isaac will be desolate, the sanctuaries of Israel will be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.” (Amos 7:7-9)

A plumb line is a cord with a metal weight suspended from it that points directly to the earth’s center of gravity. It is used to determine the vertical from a given point; specifically, in building it is used to determine whether walls are straight or “plumb”.

What is the plumb line referred to in this passage from Amos? It is Yahshua; it is the Word; it is the law and the testimony; it is the Spirit of Truth. It is the Spirit of “the fear of Yahweh”!

Moreover the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, ⁹ “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house. His hands shall also finish it; and you will know that Yahweh of Hosts has sent me to you. ¹⁰ Indeed, who despises the day of small things? For these seven shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. These are the eyes of Yahweh, which run back and forth through the whole earth.” (Zech. 4:8-10)

For the time [has come] for judgment to begin at the house of Elohim. If it begins first at us, what will happen to those who don't obey the gospel of Elohim? (1 Pet. 4:17)

This is the reason so many congregations, assemblies, and churches are going through such trials. Judgment has begun!

The Blessings of Having a Proper Fear of Yahweh

The Bible tells us that in addition to wisdom, there are many other blessings that come as a natural result of having a proper fear of Yahweh.

Praise Yah! Blessed is the man who fears Yahweh, Who delights greatly in His commandments.² His seed will be mighty on earth. The generation of the upright will be blessed.³ Wealth and riches are in his house. His righteousness endures forever. (Psa. 112:1-3)

When we rightly fear Yahweh and delight greatly in His commandments, we are blessed and there is a natural impartation to our children that occurs. We might not always see it right away, but we have the assurance that if we train up our children in the way that they should go, when they are older they will not depart from it (Pro. 22:6).

These verses in Psalm 112 also tell us that the generation of the upright, those who fear Yahweh and delight greatly in His commandments, will be blessed. As it states in Deuteronomy, we will be blessed in our coming in and our going out (Deut. 28:6).

Those who fear His Name will receive an inheritance, as well as His friendship:

For you, Elohim, have heard my vows. You have given me the heritage (inheritance, conquest, possession) of those who fear Your Name (Psa. 61:5)

The friendship of Yahweh is with those who fear Him; And He will show them His covenant. (Psa. 25:14)

The Hebrew word translated 'friendship' here is *sode*, which also means 'secret, counsel, circle of familiar friends'. In other words, those

who fear Yahweh are a part of His “inner circle”. They are the ones to whom He will reveal His covenant!

Supernatural Protection

Another blessing that comes from having a proper fear of Yahweh is His supernatural protection.

In the fear of Yahweh is strong confidence (a secure fortress),
And He will be a refuge for His children. (Pro. 14:26)

The fear of Yahweh will give us unshakeable confidence in Him as our refuge. In fact, He actually has His eye on us if we fear Him:

Behold, the eye of Yahweh is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His lovingkindness; ¹⁹ To deliver their soul from death, To keep them alive in famine. (Psalm 33:18-19)

What an incredible revelation! Because we fear Him and hope in His lovingkindness, He has His eye on us! How can we possibly go wrong?!

Yahweh is near to all those who call on Him, To all who call on Him in truth. ¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him. He also will hear their cry, and will save them. (Psalm 145:18-19)

The angel of Yahweh encamps round about those who fear Him, And delivers them. (Psa. 34:7)

These are some powerful scriptures. Yahweh will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him, and His angel or messenger encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them. If you want to ensure that you are delivered in times of trouble, increase your fear of Yahweh!

Provision

Psalm 34 goes on to talk about Yahweh’s provision to those who fear Him.

Oh taste and see that Yahweh is good. Blessed is the man who

takes refuge in Him.⁹ Oh fear Yahweh, you His saints, For there is no lack with those who fear Him.¹⁰ The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger, But those who seek Yahweh shall not lack any good thing.¹¹ Come, you children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of Yahweh.¹² Who is someone who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking lies. ¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good. Seek peace, and pursue it. ¹⁵ The eyes of Yahweh are toward the righteous. His ears listen to their cry. (Psa. 34:8-15)

Verse 9 says that they will suffer no lack, and then verse 10 tells us that those who seek Yahweh will not lack any good thing. So fearing Him (revering Him) and seeking Him are closely related. Finally, verse 11 again makes it clear that the fear of Yahweh can be taught: “listen to me. I will teach you the fear of Yahweh.” This isn’t some sterile intellectual or doctrinal teaching – it is the impartation of a key Kingdom life principle! Verse 15 reiterates that the His eye is on His people and that He listens to their cry.

Life and Contentment

The fear of Yahweh also leads to a long and vibrant life.

The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life, Turning people from the snares of death. (Pro. 14:27)

The fear of Yahweh prolongs days, But the years of the wicked shall be shortened. (Pro. 10:27)

This reveals several practical principles. First, if we fear Him, it will be a fountain of life to us and will turn us from the snares of death because we will live differently than those in the world. We won’t do things that would tend to shorten our lives or put ourselves in dangerous situations.

In addition, if we have a proper fear of Yahweh, then we won’t fear other things. We won’t have carnal fear, anxiety, and excessive worry in our lives, which means that we will experience less stress. Since stress is known to shorten lives, a lack of stress means a longer life.

The fear of Yahweh leads to life, then contentment; He rests and will not be touched by trouble. (Pro. 19:23)

Proper reverence toward Yahweh leads first to life, then to contentment. We will be able to rest and not be touched by trouble. This doesn't mean that we will never experience trouble – only that it won't be able to “touch us.” We will rest in His protection and provision and know that He is with us even in the midst of the storm and the tempest.

The reward of humility and the fear of Yahweh is riches, honor, and life. (Pro. 22:4)

True, holy fear leads to uprightness and the departing from evil:

He who walks in his righteousness fears Yahweh, But he who is perverse in his ways despises Him. (Pro. 14:2)

By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for. By the fear of Yahweh men depart from evil. (Pro. 16:6)

It has been said that sin starts where the fear of Yahweh ends. When people don't have a fear of Yahweh, they tend to feel free to do anything and everything. On the other hand, when we fear Yahweh we will depart from evil. To put it another way, when we walk in righteousness, that is an indication that we have a genuine fear of Yahweh.

We've seen many poignant scriptures dealing with the blessings of having a biblical fear of Yahweh. Despite that, some might argue “but Yahweh hasn't given us the ‘spirit of fear’, but of power and of love and of discipline” (2 Tim. 1:7). We need to understand this in context, however. The Greek word translated ‘fear’ here – di-LEE-ah – actually means “timidity, cowardice”. Paul goes on to exhort Timothy “Don't be ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Master, nor of me, his prisoner; but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of Elohim” (v8).

Yahshua and the Fear of Yahweh

Yahshua actually taught about the fear of Yahweh:

Meanwhile, when a multitude of many thousands had gathered

together, so much so that they trampled on each other, He began to tell His disciples first of all, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”² But there is nothing covered up,³ that will not be revealed, nor hidden, that will not be known.³ Therefore whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light. What you have spoken in the ear in the inner chambers will be proclaimed on the housetops.⁴ I tell you, my friends, don’t be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.⁵ But I will warn you whom you shall fear. Fear Him, who after He has killed, has power to cast into Gehenna. Yes, I tell you, fear Him. (Luke 12:1-5)

Notice that Yahshua wasn’t just instructing sinners here. He was instructing His disciples and friends to “fear Him who has power to cast into Gehenna”. Only Yahweh has the power to cast one into Gehenna.

Similarly, the writer of Hebrews issued a stern warning to believers that “it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim.” Here is the verse in context:

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which will devour the adversaries.²⁸ A man who has set at nothing Moses’ law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses.²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will he be judged worthy of, who has trodden underfoot the Son of Elohim, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know Him who said, “Vengeance belongs to me,” says Yahweh, “I will repay.” Again, “Yahweh will judge His people.”³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim. (Heb. 10:26-31)

When we operate out of a proper reverence for Yahweh, we will not continue to sin willfully – to do so would be to trod underfoot our Messiah, treat His shed blood as something common, and insult the Spirit of grace. Rather, we will seek to perfect holiness in the fear of Elohim.

Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Elohim. (2 Cor. 7:1)

A Centurion Who Feared Elohim

Now there was a certain man in Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,² a devout man, and one who feared Elohim with all his house, who gave gifts for the needy generously to the people, and always prayed to Elohim.³ At about the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of Elohim coming to him, and saying to him, “Cornelius!”⁴ He, fastening his eyes on him, and being frightened, said, “What is it, Lord?” He said to him, “Your prayers and your gifts to the needy have gone up for a memorial before Elohim.” (Acts 10:1-4)

Cornelius was a Roman centurion, yet he feared Elohim, both he and his entire household. This fear – this reverence – led him to pray continuously and to give alms. And because of this, he was chosen as the vessel through which Yahweh would convey the awesome revelation of the opening of the Gospel to all men (see v34-35). That was no small thing!

This leads us to our next principle.

Reverence Leads to Honoring Yahweh

A proper fear of Yahweh – that deep, abiding reverence for Him – will govern how we live our lives and will lead to reciprocal blessings. With it, it is also impossible to take Him for granted. On the contrary, it will lead us to honor Him materially. We saw in Proverbs 3:7-9 that it will cause us to honor Him with our substance and the first-fruits of all of our increase. The book of Malachi builds upon this concept:

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a Father, then where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My fear [reverence]? Says Yahweh of Hosts to you, priests, who despise My Name. You say, ‘How have we despised your name?’⁷ You offer polluted bread on my altar. You say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ In that you say, ‘Yahweh’s table contemptible.’⁸ When you offer the blind for sacrifice, isn’t that evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, isn’t that evil? Present it now to your governor! Will he be pleased with you? Or will he accept your person?” says Yahweh of Hosts.⁹ “Now, please entreat the favor of Elohim, that He may be gracious to

us. With this, will He accept any of you?” says Yahweh of Hosts. (Mal. 1:6-9)

“If I am a Father, then where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My fear [reverence]?” In saying this Yahweh is making clear that a lack of honor of Him demonstrates a lack of reverence for Him. And in this passage He is dealing specifically with the expression of that honor through material offerings. The giving of second-rate or imperfect offerings actually dishonors Him. In fact, He says that the priests who did this despised His Name!

He challenges them to try that with their ‘governor’ (secular government official). It was common protocol for someone coming before a high-ranking official to bring a gift. Could you imagine meeting with a governor, prime minister, or president whom you profess to revere and present him with something you picked up at the thrift store – or worse, off the garbage heap? That is the comparison that Yahweh is making! His own priests, the ones who should have held Him in the greatest esteem, were offering Him defiled sacrifices – and then asking for His favor!

At this point it might be tempting to “bash the ministers” (because they should have known better), but we would do well to remember that the sacrifices and offerings that the priests offered were first given to them by the people. So the lame, sick, and blind offerings originated with the people. With that in mind, consider what Yahweh says next:

“Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you,” says Yahweh of hosts, “neither will I accept an offering at your hand.” (Mal. 1:10)

Yahweh was so displeased with this lack of reverence that He challenges even one priest to have the courage to shut the doors of the temple and not allow any more sacrifices and offerings!

What would the response be in the modern Western church if a ministry leader shut the doors of the local assembly until the parishioners – professing believers – really got their hearts right with Yahweh? Most of those people would probably just shake their heads at the minister’s “lack of love” and go find somewhere else to worship.

It all comes down to reverence for Yahweh. He will be glorified one way or the other, and His Name will be great even among the nations:

“For from the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same My Name is to be great among the nations (‘Gentiles’), and in every place incense will be offered to My Name, and a pure offering: for My Name is great among the nations,” says Yahweh of Hosts. ¹² “But you profane it, in that you say, ‘Yahweh’s table is polluted, and its fruit, even its food, is contemptible.’ ¹³ You say also, ‘Behold, what a weariness it is!’ and you have sniffed at it,” says Yahweh of Hosts; “and you have brought that which was taken by violence, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring the offering. Should I accept this at your hand?” says Yahweh.

“But the deceiver is cursed, who has in his flock a male, and vows, and sacrifices to Yahweh a blemished thing; for I am a great King,” says Yahweh of hosts, “and My Name is awesome among the nations.” (Mal. 1:11-14)

As the body of Messiah, is our reverence for Him driving us to do all that we can to bring glory and honor to His Name? Yahshua said “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). If we don’t reverence Yahweh, how can we expect others to do so?

Yahweh will not be mocked. A lack of reverence for Him actually results in a curse:

“Now, you priests, this commandment is for you. ² If you will not listen, and if you will not lay it to heart, to give glory to My Name,” says Yahweh of Hosts, “then will I send the curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have cursed them already, because you do not lay it to heart. ³ Behold, I will rebuke your seed, and will spread dung on your faces, even the dung of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it.

⁴ You will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may be with Levi,” says Yahweh of Hosts. ⁵ “My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him who he might be reverent toward Me; and he was reverent toward Me, and stood in awe of My Name. ⁶ The law of truth was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found in his lips. He walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and turned many away from iniquity. ⁷ For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of Yahweh of Hosts. (Mal. 2:1-7)

Yahweh's covenant with Levi was with him for life and peace, and the result of this was that he (Levi) was reverent toward Yahweh and stood in awe of His Name (v5). The Complete Jewish Bible reads "he feared Me and was in awe of My Name". This reverence caused him to walk righteously with Yahweh and turn others from iniquity.

Our fear of Yahweh – our reverence for Him as Father and Master – will cause us to stand in awe of his Name. Do we revere that Name or do we treat it as something trivial? Do we stand in awe of it or say "It doesn't really matter what I call Him – He knows who I mean"?

This passage from Malachi makes clear that our fear of Him will also cause us to honor Him, giving Him our first and our best. Yes, this means in praise and worship, and with our time and effort. But the entire context of this passage deals specifically with material things – our tithes and offerings!

The work of ministry requires finances. While it is beyond our scope to address this subject in-depth here, the Scriptures do teach, by principle and example, that this work is to be supported financially by the Body of believers (see, for example, Luke 8:1-3, 1 Cor. 9:1-14, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, Gal. 6:6-10, Matt. 10:40-41). When we truly revere Yahweh, we will be led to contribute materially to the furtherance of His Kingdom.

"Now I Know that You Fear Elohim"

Abraham is known as the father of faith. But his great faith flowed out of his great reverence for Yahweh. When he went to Mount Moriah and was about to sacrifice Isaac in obedience to the word of Yahweh, his actions were governed by that reverence:

The angel of Yahweh called to him out of the sky, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" He said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy, neither do anything to him. For now I know that you fear Elohim, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³ Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and saw that behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham called the name of that place Yahweh-yireh. As it is said to this day, "In Yahweh's mountain it will be provided." (Gen. 22:11-14)

Our heavenly Father is omniscient – He knows all things – so He already knew that Abraham feared Him. Yet He was looking for a tangible manifestation of that from him. Yahweh didn't do this because He wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac; He did this to demonstrate Abraham's faith, to show Himself strong on his behalf, and as a prophetic foreshadowing of His own Son's sacrifice. Notice that Abraham was willing to give His first and best: "now I know that you fear Elohim, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

When we have a real fear of Yahweh, as Abraham did, we will also have a corresponding confidence in His faithfulness:

In the fear of Yahweh is strong confidence [a secure fortress],
And He will be a refuge for His children. (Pro. 14:26)

Israel, trust in Yahweh! He is their help and their shield. ¹⁰
House of Aaron, trust in Yahweh! He is their help and their
shield. ¹¹ You who fear Yahweh, trust in Yahweh! He is their help
and their shield. ¹² Yahweh remembers us. He will bless us. He
will bless the house of Israel. He will bless the house of Aaron.
¹³ He will bless those who fear Yahweh, Both small and great.
(Psa. 115:9-13)

If we truly fear Yahweh, we ought to trust in Him! This is not some vague trust – it is a rock-solid assurance. Three times in this passage we're told that "He is their help and their shield." Four times we're told that "He will bless" those who fear Yahweh!

Yahshua and the Disciples

Many people down through the centuries have recognized that Yahshua ('Jesus') was a great teacher. Even modern adherents of Islam and other religions will acknowledge as much. But He was and is so much more than that. Even his own disciples struggled to understand who He really was. They were expecting a mortal man, not the Word made flesh.

Leaving the multitude, they took Him with them, even as He was, in the boat. Other small boats were also with Him. ³⁷ There arose a great wind storm, and the waves beat into the boat, so

much that the boat was already filled. ³⁸ He himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke Him up, and told Him, "Teacher, don't you care that we are dying?" ³⁹ He awoke, and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹ They were greatly afraid, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4:36-41)

Their carnal fear at their own peril was replaced by a greater fear – awe, dread – at the manifestation of Yahshua's power and the realization that He was more than just a man. Yet even despite this encounter and the innumerable miracles that they witnessed at His hands, they still didn't really recognize Him for who He was. That changed for some of them on the Mount of Transfiguration.

After six days, Yahshua took with him Peter, James, and John, his brother, and brought them up into a high mountain by themselves. ² He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as the light. ³ Behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with Him. ⁴ Peter answered, and said to Yahshua, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, let's make three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. Behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." ⁶ When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces, and were very afraid. ⁷ Yahshua came and touched them and said, "Get up, and don't be afraid." (Matt. 17:1-7)

Once again we see the visceral reaction of men to the manifest presence of the Divine. This is reminiscent of the Book of Revelation, when John saw Yahshua and fell at His feet "like a dead man" (Rev. 1:17). And though Yahshua told Peter, James, and John not to be afraid, He certainly was not telling them not to reverence Him.

The Power to Witness

True fear of Yahweh gives power to witness and causes the multiplication of the Body.

It happened soon afterwards, that He (Yahshua) went to a city called Nain. Many of His disciples went with him, along with a great multitude. ¹² Now when He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, one who was dead was carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Many people of the city were with her. ¹³ When the Master saw her, He had compassion on her, and said to her, "Don't cry." ¹⁴ He came near and touched the coffin, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" ¹⁵ He who was dead sat up, and began to speak. He gave him to his mother. ¹⁶ **Fear took hold on all, and they glorified Elohim,** saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "Elohim has visited His people!" ¹⁷ **This report went out concerning Him in the whole of Judea, and in all the surrounding region.** (Luke 7:11-17)

Notice that this miracle at the hands of Yahshua resulted in fear taking hold on all and Yahweh receiving the glory. It also, in effect, "preached the Gospel" into the entire surrounding region!

Through the fear of Yahweh we can persuade men and see the Body multiplied.

Knowing therefore the fear of Yahweh, we persuade men, but we are revealed to Elohim... (2 Cor. 5:11)

Then had the assemblies rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and **walking in the fear of Yahweh,** and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, were multiplied. (Acts 9:11)

When the body of Messiah rediscovers the true fear of Yahweh, it will be stirred up to do the work of the Kingdom.

All the remnant of the people obeyed the voice of Yahweh... and the people did fear before Yahweh... And Yahweh stirred up the spirit of all the remnant of the people (to work) (Haggai 1:12, 14)

Yahweh can use even the sins and missteps of people to bring glory and honor to his Name and to multiply the Body. We can see a prime illustration of this in the example of Ananias and Sapphira:

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira, his wife, sold a possession, ² and kept back part of the price, his wife also being

aware of it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? ⁴ While you kept it, didn't it remain your own? After it was sold, wasn't it in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You haven't lied to men, but to Elohim." ⁵ Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. (Acts 4:1-5)

A few hours later, when Sapphira came in and Peter questioned her, she also lied... and died and was buried alongside her husband. Notice the end result of this:

Great fear came on the whole assembly, and on all who heard these things. ¹² By the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. They were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. ¹³ None of the rest dared to join them, however the people honored them. ¹⁴ More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. ¹⁵ They even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might overshadow some of them. ¹⁶ Multitudes also came together from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing sick people, and those who were tormented by unclean spirits: and they were all healed. (Acts 4:11-16)

This is a stark example but it makes the point that the fear of Yahweh does lead to the furtherance of the Gospel. While the apostles were undoubtedly anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, many signs and wonders were done by their hands in this season because of the great reverence that was upon not only them but the entire assembly. If we want to see and experience the "greater works" (John 14:12), we would do well to follow their example!

The Coming King

"Behold, I send My messenger, and He will prepare the way before me; and Yahweh, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, behold, He comes!" says Yahweh of hosts. ² "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who will stand when He

appears? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap...⁵ I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against the perjurers, and against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and who deprive the foreigner of justice, and don't fear Me," says Yahweh of Hosts. (Mal. 3:1-2, 5)

Here judgment is prophesied against those who don't fear Yahweh and obey Him. Their actions indicate their lack of reverence for Him. We see a corresponding prophecy in the book of Revelation:

Fear Yahweh, and give Him glory; for the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water! (Rev. 14:7)

Psalm 72 speaks of a coming King who will administer justice in righteousness:

Elohim, give the King your justice; Your righteousness to the royal Son.² He will judge your people with righteousness, And your poor with justice.³ The mountains shall bring prosperity to the people; The hills bring the fruit of righteousness.⁴ He will judge the poor of the people. He will save the children of the needy, And will break the oppressor in pieces.⁵ They shall fear You while the sun endures; And as long as the moon, throughout all generations. (Psalm 72:1-5)

From the context and description this is clearly a Messianic prophecy (see verses 7-17). In fact, verse 11 says "Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him: all nations shall serve Him." While the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations, the fear of Yahweh will remain.

The Conclusion of the Matter

We started out recognizing that the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom (Pro. 1:7). Similarly, the end of the whole matter is to fear Yahweh and keep His commandments.

This is the conclusion of the matter. All has been heard. **Fear Elohim**, and keep His commandments; for this is the **whole**

duty of man. ¹⁴ For Elohim will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil. (Eccl. 12:13-14)

So the beginning and end of the matter is to fear Yahweh! This is not a fear that strangles you or keeps you constantly questioning your standing with Him or wondering if you've "crossed the line" again. Instead, it's a pure, healthy, abiding reverence that guides your heart and life and keeps you out of trouble! And because you are doing those things that are pleasing in His sight, it brings blessings of wisdom, provision, supernatural protection, and long life.

May each of us choose to increase our fear of Yahweh in these last days!

Notes

REDISCOVERING THE FEAR OF YAHWEH

Fear is a word that carries strong negative connotations for most English speakers. And yet Scripture uses it over and over again in reference to our heavenly Father.

Unfortunately, a true, biblical understanding of the fear of Yahweh has largely been lost in the body of Messiah. As we will see in this booklet, however, it impacts virtually every area of our life and walk.

“...Fear Elohim, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13b)

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