

Introduction:

Have you ever considered Solomon's statement in Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." To 'fear God' is a recurring theme of the bible. Is this fear simply a 'reverence, respect or awe' or should we actually be terrified of God like Isaiah and John? (Isa 6:5-7; Rev 1:17). Could a healthy fear of God lead us to the life we were meant to live?

Agenda:

Monday – "Fear God... because the hour of His judgment has come" (Rev 14:7)

Tuesday – "The fear of God... is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalms 111:10)

Wednesday – "To fear of the Lord... leads to life, rest, contentment" (Proverbs 19:23)

Thursday – "The fear of the Lord... is the key to treasure" (Isaiah 33:6)

Core Questions:

- What does it mean to "fear God"?
- Why Does God use this term to describe Himself?
- Why should I fear God?
- How will it impact my relationship with God if I fear Him?
- How will it change how I view myself?
- How will it change how I act?

Day 1 - WHY SHOULD WE FEAR GOD? – scripture reference

WE MUST LEARN TO FEAR GOD

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

Psalms 55:19 - God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change— he will hear them and humble them, because they have no **fear of God**.

1 Chronicles 16:25 - For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be **feared** above all **gods**.

Psalms 40:3 - He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our **God**. Many will see and **fear** the Lord and put their trust in him.

Deuteronomy 31:13 - 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.”

Joshua 24:14 - “Now **fear** the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the **gods** your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

2 Chronicles 19:9 - He gave **them these orders**: “You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in **the fear of the Lord**.

2 Chronicles 26:5 - He sought God during **the days of** Zechariah, who instructed him in **the fear of** God. As long as he sought **the Lord**, God gave him success.

Psalms 34:11 - Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you **the fear of the Lord**.

Psalms 40:3 - He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn **of** praise to our God. Many will see and **fear the Lord** and put **their** trust in him.

Proverbs 23:17 - Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for **the fear of the Lord**.

Isaiah 50:10 - Who among you **fears the Lord** and obeys **the word of** his servant? Let **the** one who walks in **the** dark, who has no light, trust in **the name of the Lord** and rely on **their** God.

2 Corinthians 5:11 - Since, **then**, we know what it is to **fear the Lord**, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

Genesis 22:12 - “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you **fear God**, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

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

Deuteronomy 10:12 - And now, Israel, what does the Lord your **God** ask of you but to **fear** the Lord your **God**, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your **God** with all your heart and with all your soul

1 Peter 2:17 - Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, **fear God**, honor the emperor. Slaves, in reverent **fear of God** submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh

Deuteronomy 28:10 - Then all **the** peoples on earth will see that you are called by **the name of the Lord**, and **they will fear** you

Micah 7:17 - They will lick dust like a snake, like creatures that crawl on **the** ground. **They** will come trembling out **of their dens**; **they** will turn in **fear** to **the Lord** our God and will be afraid **of** you.

FEAR HIM – BECAUSE OF HIS CONTROL OF NATURE

Exodus 9:30 - But I know that you and your **officials** still do not **fear the Lord** God.”

Exodus 14:31 - And when **the** Israelites saw **the** mighty hand **of the Lord** displayed against **the** Egyptians, **the** people **feared the Lord** and put **their** trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Isaiah 59:19 - From **the** west, people will **fear the name of the Lord**, and from **the** rising **of the** sun, **they** will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that **the** breath **of the Lord** drives along.

Jeremiah 5:24 - 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.’

Psalms 64:9 - All people will **fear**; they will proclaim the works of **God** and ponder what he has done.

Joshua 4:24 - For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan 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.”

FEAR HIM – BECAUSE OF HIS POWER (IN BATTLE)

Jonah 1:16 - At this **the** men greatly **feared the Lord**, and **they** offered a sacrifice to **the Lord** and made vows to him.

2 Chronicles 17:10 - The **fear of the Lord** fell on all **the** kingdoms **of the** lands surrounding Judah, so that **they** did not go to war against Jehoshaphat.

2 Chronicles 20:29 - The **fear of** God came on all **the** surrounding kingdoms when **they** heard how **the Lord** had fought against **the** enemies **of** Israel.

Psalm 102:15 - The nations will **fear the name of the Lord**, all **the kings of the earth** will revere your glory.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - And now, Israel, what does **the Lord** your God ask of you but to **fear the Lord** your God, to walk in obedience to him, 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?

Daniel 6:26 - "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must **fear and reverence the God** of Daniel. "For he is the living **God** and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

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Exodus 20:5 - You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your **God**, am a **jealous God**, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Exodus 34:14 - Do not worship any other **god**, for the Lord, whose name is **Jealous**, is a **jealous God**.

Deuteronomy 4:24 - For the Lord your **God** is a consuming fire, a **jealous God**.

Deuteronomy 5:9 - You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your **God**, am a **jealous God**, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Deuteronomy 6:15 - for the Lord your **God**, who is among you, is a **jealous God** and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.

Deuteronomy 32:16 - They made him **jealous** with their foreign **gods** and angered him with their detestable idols.

Deuteronomy 32:21 - They made me **jealous** by what is no **god** and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.

Joshua 24:19 - Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy **God**; he is a **jealous God**. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins.

Ezekiel 8:3 - He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of **God** he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court, where the idol that provokes to **jealousy** stood.

Nahum 1:2 - The Lord is a **jealous and avenging God**; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and vents his wrath against his enemies.

FEAR HIM – ABOVE ALL GODS

1 Chronicles 16:25 - For great is **the Lord** and most worthy of praise; he is to be **feared** above all gods.

Psalms 96:4 - For great is **the Lord** and most worthy of praise; he is to be **feared** above all gods.

Psalms 89:7 - In the council of the holy ones **God** is greatly **feared**; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

FEAR HIM – BECAUSE OF HIS JUSTICE (vs. OUR SIN)

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

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

2 Chronicles 19:7 - Now let **the fear of the Lord** be on you. Judge carefully, for with **the Lord** our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”

Leviticus 25:36 - Do not take interest or any profit from them, but **fear your God**, so that they may continue to live among you.

Leviticus 25:43 - Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but **fear your God**.

2 Samuel 23:3 - The **God** of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: ‘When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the **fear of God**,

FEAR HIM – BECAUSE OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS - ANGER (vs. OUR SIN)

Revelation 14:7 - 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.

Deuteronomy 9:19 - 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.

Joshua 4:24 - He did this (Red Sea) 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.”

Luke 23:39-41 - 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? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Hebrews 10:26-28 - If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

COMING ‘FACE-TO-FACE’ WITH GOD

ISAIAH - Isa 6:1-5 - In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Isa 6:1-5 - Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

ISREAL NATION - Isaiah 2:19 - People will flee to caves in **the** rocks and to holes in **the** ground from **the** fearful presence of **the** Lord and **the** splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake **the** earth.

Isaiah 41:10 - So do **not** fear, for I am with you; do **not** be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

ISREAL NATION - Isa 44:6-7 - This is what the LORD says— Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come— yes, let them foretell what will come.

Isa 44:8 - Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

MOSES - Acts 7:32 - 'I am the **God** of your fathers, the **God** of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with **fear** and did not dare to look.

Acts 7:33-34 - "Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'

JOHN - Rev 1:11-17a - I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead...

Rev 1:17b-18 - ...Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "**Do not be afraid**. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

COMING 'FACE-TO-FACE' WITH THE 'PHYSICAL' JESUS

PETER - Luke 5:4-9 - When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Luke 5:10-11 - Then Jesus said to Simon, "**Don't be afraid**; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

DISCIPLES - Matt 14:22-26 - Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

Matt 14:27 - But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

DISCIPLES - Mark 4:35-39 - That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Mark 4:35-39 - He said to his disciples, "**Why are you so afraid?** Do you still have no faith? They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

MARY (with Angel) - Matt 28:1-4 - After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Matt 28:5-6 - The angel said to the women, "**Do not be afraid**, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay

Day 2 – FEAR OF GOD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM – scripture reference

Psalm 111:10 - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.*

Job 28:28 - *And he said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”*

Psalm 19:9 - *The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous*

Proverbs 9:10 - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Proverbs 1:7 - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 2:1-5 - *My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.*

Psalm 27:1 - *The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?*

Psalm 33:8 - *Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.*

Day 3 – FEAR OF GOD - LEADS TO LIFE – scripture reference

Proverbs 19:23 - The **fear of the Lord** leads to life; **then** one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Psalm 33:18-19 - But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

Psalm 34:7 - The angel **of the Lord** encamps around those who **fear** him, and he delivers **them**.

Psalm 128:1 - Blessed are all who **fear the Lord**, who walk in obedience to him

Proverbs 14:27 - The **fear of the Lord** is a fountain **of** life, turning a person from **the** snares **of** death.

Psalm 40:3 - He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our **God**. Many will see and **fear** the Lord and put their trust in him.

Psalm 55:19 - God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change— he will hear them and humble them, because they have no **fear** of **God**.

Acts 9:31 - Then **the** church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time **of** peace and was strengthened. Living in **the fear of the Lord** and encouraged by **the** Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Psalm 66:16 - Come and hear, all you who **fear God**; let me tell you what he has done for me

Ecclesiastes 8:12 - Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who **fear God**, who are reverent before him. Yet because the wicked do not **fear God**, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.

Day 4 – FEAR OF GOD LEADS TO TREASURE – scripture reference

Isaiah 33:6 - He will be **the** sure foundation for your times, a rich store **of** salvation and wisdom and knowledge; **the fear of the Lord** is **the** key to this treasure.

Proverbs 10:27 - The **fear of the Lord** adds length to life, but **the years of the** wicked are cut short.

Proverbs 15:16 - Better a little with **the fear of the Lord** than great wealth with turmoil.

Proverbs 16:6 - Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through **the fear of the Lord** evil is avoided.

Proverbs 22:4 - Humility is **the fear of the Lord**; its wages are riches and honor and life

Deuteronomy 6:1-3 - 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, ² 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. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Deuteronomy 6:24 - 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.

Isaiah 11:1-5 - A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and **fear of the LORD**—and he will delight in the **fear of the LORD**. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.