

Monday, 2 April 2018 Exodus 1:15-21

Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiprah and the other Puah, "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

This is a passage that emphasizes the relationship between obedience to the Word of the LORD and His favor. I'm sure that the midwives realized the possible consequences of disobeying Pharaoh but rated that result as being inconsequential to the blessings that would accrue from obedience to the LORD, God, the Almighty. This is not an argument for wealth and prosperity, but that obedience to His Word brings the pleasure of basking in His Favor. It is significant that His favor was to bestow children upon them; the very blessing that Pharaoh was determined to restrict among the Israelites.

Tuesday, 3 April 2018 Exodus 9:19-21

Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them." Then whoever feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses, but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the LORD left his slaves and his livestock in the field.

It took six plagues, but the awesomeness of the LORD was beginning to soak into the Egyptians. Part of their reaction had to be that they were afraid, but another portion had to be the witness of the Israelites as Goshen continued to be shielded from the plagues.

Let us not be shy regarding the works of the LORD among us.

Wednesday, 4 April 2018 Exodus 9:29-30

Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hands to the LORD. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth is the LORD's. But

as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God."

We need to recognize that some will refuse to recognize the fear of the LORD at work among His people. Excuses abound like black flies in May. However, the root of bitterness goes back to that fateful statement in the Garden, "You shall be as god's and know good from evil." A lie from the beginning; we still don't recognize the difference on our own.

Thursday, 5 April 2018 Exodus 14:10

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD.

Reaction #1 The mightiest army in existence is hot on my tail and I'm scared. It is the natural reaction of a sinful man. I am undergoing the process of transformation into the image of Christ but the process is incomplete.

However, look at the last sentence; when will my automatic response be to cry out to the LORD? Attack by the devil—cry out to the LORD in my next breath.

Friday, 6 April 2018 Exodus 14:13

And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.

Reaction #2 The LORD sends a messenger to remind me that I don't need to be scared; He is about to do incredible work in my presence. I need to begin to thank Him for my deliverance and watch expectantly for its execution.

I also need to learn to watch for opportunities be Moses, Jr. and carry the message of "Fear not, stand firm and see the salvation of the LORD."

Saturday, 7

April 2018 Exodus 14:31

Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reaction #3 The beginning of the fear/belief/trust/commit/obey/faith cycle, but as we shall see as this study continues; much to be learned.

There is always a parting of the Red Sea incident, less dramatic, but a soul-transforming event; sometimes the quiet singing of a Psalm, sometimes an altar call, or ..., but always a movement of the Spirit in the individual's life.

Lord's Day, 8 April 2018 Psalm 119:65-72

You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. You are good and do good; teach me your statutes. The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts; their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law. It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Before...but now! The event of belief, the beginning of trusting in, committing to, conforming to, submitting to. The beginning of the journey along the King's Highway. The process of sanctification, the beginning of seeking to be holy even as You are holy. Guided by the Holy Spirit as He instructs me in Your statutes, I am provided with a slate of activities to serve as a basis to carry the Good News to the lost, the least and the lonely.

Praise You, my Lord, my Master, my Brother.

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Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



April 2-8, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Colossians 4:2-4

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

LORD, we pray for our [Congregation] that we would become men and women who are devoted to prayer. Devoted to prayer for the advancement of the Kingdom, for our ministries, for our families, for all in our Personal Mission Field.

We pray that we would become those who pray without ceasing that our message would be true to You, that it would declare that awesome and incomprehensible mystery that Your love for Your creation would bring You to the Cross for our redemption.

We pray that our proclamation of the message of grace and mercy would be clearly heard and understood by all to whom we are called to minister. *Amen*

To fear or not to fear, that is the question.

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.