

Monday, 16 April 2018 Deuteronomy 1:29-33

Then I said to you, 'Do not be in dread or afraid of them. The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.' Yet in spite of this word you did not believe the LORD your God, who went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go.

I can sense the exasperation in Moses' voice; a "What more does the LORD, God, the Almighty have to do for you to prove that He goes before you." Over and over, Moses reminds the people of Israel to look back at what the LORD has done for them in the past so that they will know that they are in His hands in the future.

Do I continue to commit the same sin today? YES! Part of the cycle of faith is developing the habit of continuously recognizing the LORD's blessings, committing them to memory and living in a state of thanksgiving.

Tuesday, 17 April 2018 Deuteronomy 2:4-6

[And] command the people, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful. Do not contend with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as for the sole of the foot to tread on, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession. You shall purchase food from them with money, that you may eat, and you shall also buy water from them with money, that you may drink.

A very important warning to the Israelites that they are not to violate any of the promises of God. They were to treat the descendants of Esau with the utmost respect, honoring the LORD's promises to them.

Shouldn't we take this passage and Deut. 2:9, the LORD's promises to Lot, as a warning to us as Gentiles, to always remember that the Jews are the Children of the Promise to Abraham? Any trace of antisemitism is a direct challenge to the authority of the LORD, God, the Almighty.

Wednesday, 18 April 2018 Deuteronomy 2:25

This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples who are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.'

It was evident to all nations around the Israelites that the favor

of God was upon them and they trembled. Was this the beginning of an anti-Israelite sentiment? Does it shed some light on antisemitism today?

I wonder if it is not a contributing factor regarding the persecution of Christians today? Does an individual who exudes the righteousness, peace, and joy of life in communion with the LORD find that the attitude of the culture around them might be fright based?

Thursday, 19 April 2018 Deuteronomy 4:10

how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.'

Deuteronomy 4:5-6 See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

Do you see the connection here which will eventually lead to Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.* As true today, as it was 4000 years ago for Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Friday, 20 April 2018 Deuteronomy 6:13-15

It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

These are some warnings regarding the fear of the LORD, some actions and attitudes that must be avoided or His righteous, just and holy anger will be roused. His jealousy will be exhibited if we refuse to serve Him, or use His name in vain. He will not tolerate allegiance to other gods in any form. We should be thankful that *the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.* Deuteronomy 4:24 It is a visible demonstration of His love for His creation, the love that led to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins.

Saturday, 21 April 2018 Deuteronomy 6:24-25

And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the

LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. And it will be righteousness for us if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.'

It never ceases to fascinate me to see how well and smoothly the LORD's economy operates when His Word controls. And contrarily, how the economy of man spins out of control, bringing death and misfortune upon all.

Take any of the Ten Commandments and examine the effect of their disobedience upon the culture. It provides valuable fodder for the work to show someone that their worldview has serious flaws.

Lord's Day, 22 April 2018 Psalm 119:81-88

My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?" For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes. How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me? The insolent have dug pitfalls for me; they do not live according to your law. All your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me! They have almost made an end of me on earth, but I have not forsaken your precepts. In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

Those that the Evil One uses to assault my testimony and blunt my usefulness for Your work are not people but are emotions and affections. The seeds of these sins still lie within me, lurking and ready to spring to life, greed, pride, lust, anger...the list is endless. But standing between these minions of the Evil One and me is Your love, protecting me, You grace lavishing me with the Armor of the Word, Your mercy turning away the fruit of my sin. Praise You, my Lord and Master.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



April 16-22, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. 1 For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

We thank You, LORD, for the strength and boldness to speak into the culture in which each of us lives and works. Speaking the message of redemption, of restoration and reconciliation, speaking the offer of righteousness, peace and joy of life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Speaking of Your love, grace and mercy that is offered freely to all mankind. Let us not be swayed by the wrath and hostility of those who adamantly worship other gods and who are determined to leave no effort untried to prohibit the proclamation of the Gospel. 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.

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