

Monday, 23 April 2018 Deuteronomy 7:18-21

[Y]ou shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So will the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. Moreover, the LORD your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed. You shall not be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.

We no longer have Pharaoh, the plagues of Egypt or the parting of the Red Sea to reveal the outstretched arm of the of the LORD. No, but His might, His power, His grace, His mercy and His love are demonstrated as effectively now as 4000 years ago. We, like the Israelites, have lost the ability, no—do not have the willingness, to look for the Hand of the LORD active among us.

Tuesday, 24 April 2018 Deuteronomy 8:5-6

Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

We must not make the mistake of thinking that this principle applied to the Israelites but not to us in this present age. After all, "I'm saved by grace and not by works, so I don't have to obey the Law" How wrong can I get? This is about the top of the list. The LORD, God the Almighty still uses discipline to teach me to live in a way that honors Him. (Refer to Heb 12:3-17 for a post-crucifixion discussion)

Wednesday, 25 April 2018 Deuteronomy 9:16-20

And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God. You had made yourselves a golden calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that the LORD had commanded you. So I took hold of the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes. Then I lay prostrate before the LORD as before, forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all the sin that you had committed, in doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD to provoke him to anger. For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure that the LORD bore against you, so that he was ready to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me that time also. And the LORD was so angry with Aaron that he was ready to destroy him. And I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

It would have been easy for Moses to refuse to intercede for the Israelites but he prostrated himself before the LORD for another

40 days fast. A total of 80 days without food and water. He prayed for the Israelites and Aaron. He was willing to risk all for his people and his brother. He went toe to toe with the LORD, God, the Almighty. He loved them even in their sin. And the LORD listened and relented in His anger.

Am I called likewise? Am I willing?

Thursday, 26 April 2018 Deuteronomy 10:12-13

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?”

Isn't this amazing? Obedience to the Word of the LORD is for my good. A life that honors the LORD, God, the Almighty is for my good? A life lived in the fear of the LORD is for my good? This is a life-changing thought for I thought I was doing this to please Him, for His honor and glory. Well, yes, but! He wants the best for me and knows that a life structured according to His Word is the best of all possible lives for me. He loves me.

Friday, 27 April 2018 Deuteronomy 10:20-21

You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.

#3 *You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God in vain.* Thanking Him, praising Him, trusting Him, obeying Him, having faith in His promises, fearing Him; all are not taking His name in vain, all are giving Him the honor that is His due.

Saturday, 28 April 2018 Deuteronomy 11:25-28

No one shall be able to stand against you. The LORD your God will lay the fear of you and the dread of you on all the land that you shall tread, as he promised you. “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.

The LORD, God, the Almighty sets a blessing and a curse before us today. The blessing is that we can live in the righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit in the here and now if we seek to live in the fear of the LORD. Or the curse is

that we will live in the injustice, turmoil, and agony of the Kingdom of Man.

Lord's Day, 29 April 2018 Psalm 119:89-96

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants. If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life. I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts. The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies. I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

This is the great testimony of the creation with each element displaying the constancy of the Lord and His never failing Word. As the sun rises each morning in the east and sets each evening in the west, even so, I can know that the Word of the Lord will always be at my right hand and at my left to shield and guide me. Lord, that every aspect of the creation would be an Ebenezer for Your Word.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



April 23-29, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

LORD, as we meditate on this precious prayer from the Apostle Paul for his flocks and reflect on our callings, we find similar concerns for our [congregation] and our missions.

We pray that we may increase in love for each other. We pray that in spite of the constraints of family and work, that we may find suitable means to employ the technology to bring us into a closer relationship; that we will become as *cara anum*. (soul friends, like Jonathan and David, see 1 Sam. 18:1-3)

We pray that we will be holy and blameless on that Day when You come to carry Your chosen ones home; to enter into Your presence and assume our callings as Your stewards of Your creation. *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.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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