

Monday, 11 March 2019 1 Chronicles 14:13-17

And the Philistines yet again made a raid in the valley. And when David again inquired of God, God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; go around and come against them opposite the balsam trees. And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines." And David did as God commanded him, and they struck down the Philistine army from Gibeon to Gezer. And the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

The Philistines attacked. David asked. David listened. David obeyed as the LORD commanded. David's fame spread. The LORD, God, the Almighty brought the fear (the dread) of him upon all the nations.

My Fear of the LORD must exhibit the same components—precisely exhibit. When a difficulty/problem occurs, I must immediately ask; I must listen; I must willingly obey. Not for my glory but giving glory to the LORD. God, the Almighty. A dimension of the Fear of the LORD.

Tuesday, 12 March 2019 1 Chronicles 16:23-25

Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods.

Another dimension is that I am to declare His glory every day, all day, everywhere. I'm to speak of who He is, what He does, and His availability to everyone. The Hebrew word translated as fear is not the word used in yesterday's passage. This word carries a sense of fear (dread) accompanied by reverence. How can I not fear (dread) the LORD, God, the Almighty, the I AM, the One who spoke and it was, the One who speaks and it is, the One who will speak and it will be, the One who is in control of all things? How can I not revere the One who sent His Son to be the Perfect Sacrifice, the One who welcomes me into His family with open arms, the One who says, "Come to me...and I will find rest for your soul. (Matt 11:28)?"

Wednesday, 13 March 2019 1 Chronicles 21:26-30

And David built there an altar to the LORD and presented burnt offerings and peace offerings and called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him with fire from heaven upon the altar of burnt offering. Then the LORD commanded the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath. At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there. For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses had made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering were at that time in the high place at Gibeon, but David could not

go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

This is a fascinating chapter that opens up several important questions. In the beginning, David gives in to his pride and unwillingness to trust in the LORD, God, the Almighty to provide for the nation's safety. He commanded that a census is performed. Was it so that he could strut around boasting he, the former shepherd boy, now commanded an army of over 1,500,00 men. Pretty impressive for the day. And lack of trust.

Another question is why the LORD's anger was directed towards the people of Israel not upon the person of David. Wasn't it a demonstration that David, a powerful king in the world's eyes, was powerless when it came to protecting his nation, the ones whom God had called Him to lead. A direct assault on his pride and lack of trust.

Is it no wonder that he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD? This is a demonstration of that dimension of the Fear of the LORD that is really, indeed fright. Yes, there are times when I should be aware that my loved ones can be the victims of my pride and lack of trust.

Thursday, 14 March 2019 1 Chronicles 22:11-13

"Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel, you may keep the law of the LORD your God. Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.

David's words to Solomon, as he outlined his son's responsibilities to build the Temple, have significance to the LORD's people today. As Solomon was to build the Temple according to the plans given to his father, so we are called to build His Kingdom according to the plans He has given us in His Word. We are instructed to be workers who rightly handled the Word of Truth. (2 Tim. 2:15).

The word, Truth, is essential. It is the Word of the LORD, and we are not at liberty to edit, delete, revise, or ignore any portion of the Word. We are to diligently strive to present ourselves to God as ones approved, workers in His Kingdom who do not need to be ashamed.

Friday, 15 March 2019 1 Chronicles 28:19-21

"All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the LORD, all the work to be done according to the plan." Then David said to Solomon, his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God is with you. He will not leave

you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished. And behold the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God, and with you in all the work will be every willing man who has skill for any kind of service; also the officers and all the people will be wholly at your command."

We are directed, as was Solomon, to step out courageously and build the Kingdom of Heaven in the here in now. Everything is in place, the materials, the talents and gifts, the leading of the Holy Spirit; nothing is lacking for the work to be done. "Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God is with you."

Saturday, 16 March 2019 2 Chronicles 6:28-31

"If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemies besiege them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is, whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own sorrow and stretching out his hands toward this house, then hear from heaven your dwelling place and forgive and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways, for you, you only, know the hearts of the children of mankind, that they may fear you and walk in your ways all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.

This is a long list of serious problems, especially for an economy that is basically agronomic. Each, in our imagination, could develop an equally long list of things that have, do, or could go wrong in our lives. A dear brother refers to it as "catastrophizing." What's the worst thing I can imagine happening and what do I do if it gets worse?

But the LORD, God, the Almighty's answer now is the same for us in the Kingdom of Heaven as it was for Israel. "Fear Him and walk in His ways."

Or another example of His thunderous, "**TRUST ME!** As another dimension of the Fear of the LORD. Perhaps the first part of the belief cycle is to begin to learn to trust the LORD, God, the Almighty in all things.

Lord's Day, 17 March 2019 Psalm 119:101

I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

Help me to avoid the evil path of time wasting. Help me to regard each moment of my life, not as a gift from You though it is, but as something belonging to You that I have been assigned to utilize for Your glory.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



March 11-17, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD, we, the [congregation], raise each other up in prayer that we may be worthy of Your calling, and that by Your power You will fulfill every good purpose of ours and every act prompted by our faith. We pray this so the Your Name, our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in us and us in You, according to the grace of our God and You. 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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