

Monday, 18 March 2019 2 Chronicles 6:32-33 “

Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for the sake of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays toward this house, hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

Solomon graciously prays for the blessings of the LORD, God, the Almighty to be extended to the non-Israelite who recognizes the Name of the LORD by praying to Him.

Our prayers should be like Solomon's; that the LORD answer those who seek Him as a result of our witness, for we are His temple. We are called to trust in His promise that all who believe in Him will be saved.

Tuesday, 19 March 2019 2 Chronicles 14:8-14

And Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, armed with large shields and spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin that carried shields and drew bows. All these were mighty men of valor. Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots and came as far as Mareshah. And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. And Asa cried to the LORD his God, "O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name, we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you." So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar, and the Ethiopians fell until none remained alive, for they were broken before the LORD and his army. The men of Judah carried away very much spoil. And they attacked all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD was upon them. They plundered all the cities, for there was much plunder in them.

This is an interesting and instructive story with the nation of Judah facing an army which outnumbered them 2 to 1 and with 300 chariots. The latter were the tanks of the day with the ability to deploy a large force quickly.

But the fear of the LORD was upon the army of Judah, and they prevailed. The lesson to me is that when I am faced with an opportunity to prevail against the enemy, I must not depend on my strength and knowledge. Asa prayed first and then went out to do battle. Notice that the text does not give credit to the army but states that the LORD defeated the forces of the Ethiopians. When will I learn to pray as I walk from my car to the prison? Or any other opportunity to do battle with the father of lies.

Wednesday, 20 March 2019 2 Chronicles 17:5-10

Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand. And all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor. His heart was courageous in the ways of the LORD. And furthermore, he took the high places and the Asherim out of Judah. In the third year of his reign he sent his officials, Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah; and with them the Levites, Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah; and with these Levites, the priests Elishama and Jehoram. And they taught in Judah, having the Book of the Law of the LORD with them. They went about through all the cities of Judah and taught among the people. And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, and they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

Step 1: Jehoshaphat cleaned up the nation to ensure that Judah was not worshipping false gods.

Step 2: He sent out priests and Levites to instruct the people of Judah in the Word of the LORD.

Result: the Fear of the LORD fell upon all the surrounding nations.

The lesson to me for today is to make sure that those who are under my spiritual oversight are adequately instructed in the Word of the LORD as it applies to our life in the here and now of the Kingdom of the LORD, God, the Almighty.

Thursday, 21 March 2019 2 Chronicles 19:7-9

Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes." Moreover, in Jerusalem Jehoshaphat appointed certain Levites and priests and heads of families of Israel, to give judgment for the LORD and to decide disputed cases. They had their seat at Jerusalem. And he charged them: "Thus you shall do in the fear of the LORD, in faithfulness, and with your whole heart:

The example is the judicial system but by extension applies to every aspect of my life. The Fear of the LORD is to be my guiding light where ever He sends me. I am to deal with everyone whom I have contact with in a way that brings glory and honor to the name of the LORD, God, the Almighty. No shortcuts.

Friday, 22 March 2019 2 Chronicles 20:2-7

Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-amtamar" (that is, Engedi). Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the

cities of Judah, they came to seek the LORD. And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham, your friend?"

Again, Jehoshaphat provides a model for me when faced with an overwhelming situation. He recognized his fear and need for help. He determined to seek the guidance of the LORD and proclaimed a fast as the initial step. He then prayed with a significant emphasis on reminding the LORD of His promises to Israel. (read the rest of the prayer and the sequel through v25). He and the people of Judah returned to Jerusalem praising the LORD.

Problem—fasting—prayer—victory—thanksgiving. Apply as needed.

2 Chronicles 20:29 And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

Victory—how sweet it is when it is in the Name of the LORD.

Saturday, 23 March 2019 *2 Chronicles 26:3-5*

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

I see this passage as counseling me to seek appropriate advisors to instruct me in fear of the LORD. Without the guidance of God-fearing brothers, I'm going to wander off into apostasy and heresies.

I don't take this passage as supporting a prosperity gospel. Here to prosper indicates a life lived in the righteousness, peace, and joy of the Kingdom of God, as it did then and as it does today.

Lord's Day, 24 March 2019 *Psalm 119:105*

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Here's the start, to spend the Day in the Word. Lead me, Holy Spirit, to those portions that are appropriate to my needs today.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



March 18-24, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Lord, our prayer is that we will respond to the gift of grace that comes to us in the form of eternal encouragement and good hope. We pray that this gift will be expressed in both deed and word. We pray that our faith will be evident in every step we take and every word we speak. 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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