

Monday, 15 April 2019 Job 1:1

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

The land of Uz was in the region of Ur of the Chaldees. Quite likely, according to Matthew Henry, at about the same time period as Abram. Isn't it interesting that the LORD continued His witness in that region? How did these two men, along with Enoch and Melchizedek, become God-fears? Were there others?

"He *feared God*, had a reverence for his majesty, a regard to his authority, and a dread of his wrath." quoting from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible. Now, thousands of years later, he continues to set an example for us.

Tuesday, 16 April 2019 Job 1:6-11

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

A sharp contrast between the standards of the LORD, God, the Almighty and the standards of Satan. The LORD evaluates Job based on his moral and ethical character; Satan rates him based on his possessions and the effectiveness of his work. Do I evaluate someone using which set of standards? The Godly homeless and destitute individual should be far more precious in my eyes than the richest man in the world who is a God hater.

Wednesday, 17 April 2019 Job 2:3-10

And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." And

the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Next level of attack is against Job physically. Satan does not get it, that the Fear of the LORD transcends anything he can throw at Job. I need to keep this firmly fixed in my psyche also. The Fear of the LORD will walk me through **EVERYTHING**. I need to constantly remind myself that I am called to trust Him in all things. I, like Job, must not submit to the temptation to "Curse God and die."

Thursday, 18 April 2019 Job 3:24-26

For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes."

Job is upfront about his problems, he admits that fear and dread have fallen upon him. I have to learn to admit that there are things, events, circumstances, and troubles in my life that I fear and dread. Part of learning to turn them over to the LORD, is a thorough and honest examination of the dimensions of the problem. I need to search for the sources but I do not need to lay awake all night, stewing and fussing. That time is better spent praising the LORD for His intervention and guidance.

Friday, 19 April 2019 Job 4:3-6

Behold, you have instructed many, and you have strengthened the weak hands. Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have made firm the feeble knees. But now it has come to you, and you are impatient; it touches you, and you are dismayed. Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope?

I have no idea about the number of times I have counseled and consoled someone who was wrestling with a problem; a problem that was very real and pressing to them. My counsel was and still is to trust in the LORD. He will meet your needs in a manner that is beyond anything I can ask or imagine.

Did/do my words sound weak and hollow? Insensitive to the reality in

which they lived? Yes, often, but I must always demonstrate a Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty that conveys the trust I have in Him to always work for my good.

Saturday, 20 April 2019 Job 6:14

“He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

This is a very interesting thought. To deny kindness to a friend is to deny the Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty in my life. That needs to soak deeply into all aspects of my life. One important observation is that an opportunity to show kindness to a friend should be a major issue in setting my priorities.

Lord's Day, April 2019 Psalm 119:144

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Lord, that light will shine within the prisons as we go in to give the story of salvation through You alone, for there is no other name, given under heaven, whereby men might be saved. Lord, my prayer is that we would preach no other name ever.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



April 15-21, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in:1 Timothy 2:1-6

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. . . .

Brothers,

We are called in these difficult times to be beacons of light, voices of reason; the blessed peacemakers who are called the Sons of God.

We are called to be the prayer warriors who pray unceasingly for those in authority, whether POTUS, SCOTUS or dog catcher.

We are called to be men who live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and honesty; ones whose every word and action brings glory and honor to the Name of Jesus.

It is the LORD, God, the Almighty's will for His people that we serve to bring all men to a saving knowledge of the truth. It is His will that we lead people to know “You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

May we be faithful and obedient servants. 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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