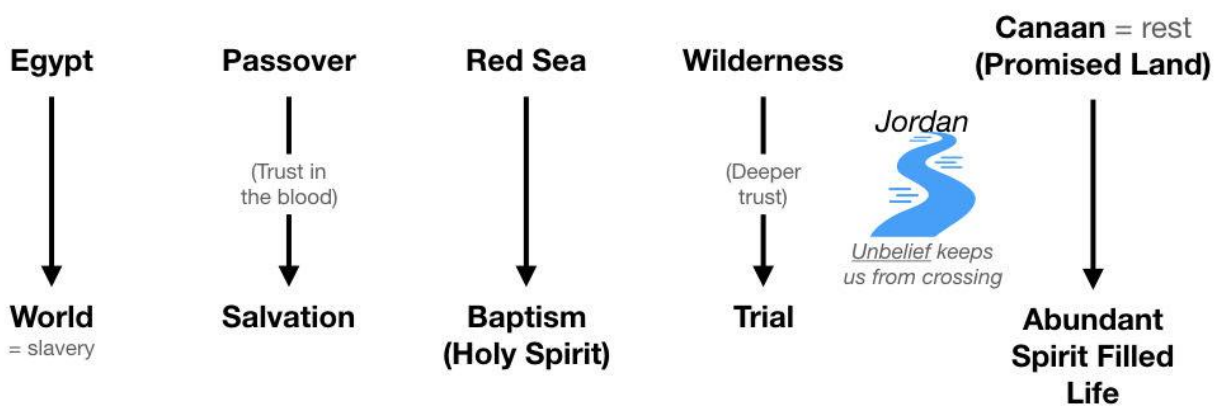


UNDERSTANDING THE FEAR OF GOD

T R U S T



Job 1:1-5 (NASB) 1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. 2 Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. 3 His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east. 4 His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

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Job was a very successful man. Notice from a worldly perspective it says that Job **"was the greatest of all the men of the east."**

Job has an incredibly successful life from the world's perspective. Based on what he owned just in Live Stock, the land that he must have owned to maintain these animals, the

many servants that worked for him we can easily say that Job was a multi millionaire. Certainly in the 10's of millions of dollars. **But one day Job lost all of it:**

Job 1:14-21 (NASB) 14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, 15 and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 16 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

Can you imagine hearing what Job did that day and in that manner and all at once. Devastating! It certainly was for Job:

20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head - This was done as an outward sign of great mourning and distress:

But there is something else that Job did: **and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."**

Most of us have heard the story of Job because it is such an extreme story of hardship on this earthly plane for an individual. And we have all heard of Job's great faithfulness to God through this incredible ordeal. Anyone who can fall to the ground and say the things that Job said after hearing these words has a heart and an understanding of God that goes beyond most believers.

But how many of us have stopped and analyzed what it was inside of Job that gave him the ability to do this?

How does a believer find himself or herself **with the ability to say what Job did?**

Job 28:1-28 (NLT) 1 "People know where to mine silver and how to refine gold. 2 They know where to dig iron from the earth and how to smelt copper from rock. 3 They know how to shine light in the darkness and explore the farthest regions of the earth as they search in the dark for ore. 4 They sink a mine shaft into the earth far from where anyone lives. They descend on ropes, swinging back and forth. 5 Food is grown on the earth above, but down below, the earth is melted as by fire. 6 Here the rocks contain precious lapis lazuli, and the dust contains gold. 7 These are treasures no bird of prey can see, no falcon's eye observe. 8 No wild animal has walked upon these treasures; no lion has ever set his paw there. 9 People know how to tear apart flinty rocks and overturn the roots of mountains. 10 They cut tunnels in the rocks and uncover precious stones. 11 They dam

up the trickling streams and bring to light the hidden treasures. 12 "But do people know where to find wisdom? Where can they find understanding? 13 No one knows where to find it, for it is not found among the living. 14 'It is not here,' says the ocean. 'Nor is it here,' says the sea. 15 It cannot be bought with gold. It cannot be purchased with silver. 16 It's worth more than all the gold of Ophir, greater than precious onyx or lapis lazuli. 17 Wisdom is more valuable than gold and crystal. It cannot be purchased with jewels mounted in fine gold. 18 Coral and jasper are worthless in trying to get it. The price of wisdom is far above rubies. 19 Precious peridot from Ethiopia cannot be exchanged for it. It's worth more than the purest gold. 20 "But do people know where to find wisdom? Where can they find understanding? 21 It is hidden from the eyes of all humanity. Even the sharp-eyed birds in the sky cannot discover it. 22 Destruction and Death say, 'We've heard only rumors of where wisdom can be found.' 23 "God alone understands the way to wisdom; he knows where it can be found, 24 for he looks throughout the whole earth and sees everything under the heavens. 25 He decided how hard the winds should blow and how much rain should fall. 26 He made the laws for the rain and laid out a path for the lightning. 27 Then he saw wisdom and evaluated it. He set it in place and examined it thoroughly. 28 And this is what he says to all humanity: 'The fear of the Lord is true wisdom; to forsake evil is real understanding.'"

What caused Job to be able to say blessed be the name of the Lord? Job's ability to have perspective about his situation came from his fear of who God is.

Let's begin with an understanding of Fear:

Fear - *terror* but can also mean ***reverence or awe***.

When we see the temporal fear in scripture we see it as something that is just that an emotion that comes and goes based on our circumstances:

Isaiah 41:10 (NASB) 10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Psalms 27:1 (NASB) 1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?

John 14:27 (NASB) 27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

But we also see another way that fear is spoken about in scripture. A much more healthy, sustainable, "perfect" kind of fear because it is an eternal, God focused fear or reverence.

Psalms 19:9 (NASB) The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

Proverbs 19:23 (NASB) 23 The fear of the LORD leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

So we see here there is a fear that is "clean" or pure as Psalm 19 says. This is a healthy understanding of fear. The reason for it is that it is a reverence or an awe of who God is.

We see that Job has a healthy fear of God:

Job 1:1 (NASB) 1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil

Was his fear a temporal fear of being punished or a deeper more reverent fear of Him?

Job 26:5-14 (NLT) 5 "The dead tremble--those who live beneath the waters. 6 The underworld is naked in God's presence. The place of destruction is uncovered. 7 God stretches the northern sky over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. 8 He wraps the rain in his thick clouds, and the clouds don't burst with the weight. 9 He covers the face of the moon, shrouding it with his clouds. 10 He created the horizon when he separated the waters; he set the boundary between day and night. 11 The foundations of heaven tremble; they shudder at his rebuke. 12 By his power the sea grew calm. By his skill he crushed the great sea monster. 13 His Spirit made the heavens beautiful, and his power pierced the gliding serpent. 14 These are just the beginning of all that he does, merely a whisper of his power. Who, then, can comprehend the thunder of his power?"

Job had a healthy reverential fear of God. It is this fear that gave him the spiritual wisdom that he had. As deep as Job's reverence for God was it wasn't as deep as it was going to be by the end of the book of Job. God was going to show him even more.

What can we learn from Job's fear or reverence for God?

In order for us to begin to put everything in this life into perspective including trials like hearing in a matter of a few minutes that you have lost EVERYTHING, that your response would be to say "Blessed be the name of the Lord" is rooted in our understanding of the FEAR OF THE LORD:

Psalm 111:10 (ESV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Our ability to have perspective as it relates to life and what we encounter in this life is going to stem from our spiritual wisdom. That perspective comes from a healthy reverence for Him.

LET'S TAKE THE SECOND HALF OF THIS LESSON TO TRY TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE FROM THE BIBLE ON UNDERSTANDING WHAT JOB UNDERSTOOD ABOUT THE FEAR OF GOD.

LET'S BEGIN WITH HIS NAME:

Exodus 3:13-14 (NASB) 13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

I AM - hayah (hä-yä)

1. to be, become, come to pass, exist, happen, fall out
 2. to come into being, become
 3. to be
 2. to abide, remain, continue (with word of place or time)
2. (Niphal)
 1. to occur, come to pass, be done, be brought about
 2. to be done, be finished, be gone

He exists outside of time. We experience time linearly, but He exists outside of time. In other words I can't go back and experience the second that just happened. But as that second that just went by is gone to me, He is still in it as well as in this second we are experiencing right now and He is already in the second that is about to happen. That is because He is I AM.

PARADE PRINCIPLE

THE SPIRIT WORLD REVERES HIM:

Mark 5:5-13 (NASB) 5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. 6 Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; 7 and shouting with a loud voice, he *said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" 8 For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he *said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. 12 The demons implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them." 13 Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.

*I find it interesting that these demons never challenge or mock Jesus by telling Him that *their* master will one day defeat Him. **Almost as if they know even Satan's power does not rival His. WHY?**

Because they've seen Jesus on the Other Side. They know who He is.

CREATION HAS REVERENCE FOR HIM:

Psalms 19:1 (NASB) ...The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

God spoke the universe into existence. Scientists have this to say about the ever expanding universe:

By the early 1990s, astronomers had calculated how much mass was in the universe, and

decided on the Big Chill as the most likely end of the universe. But then dark energy showed up in our observations.

*According to the Big Chill, the universe should be expanding more slowly today than it did in the past, because gravity has had time to work on slowing the universe down over all these billions of years. But astronomers found that the universe is moving faster today than it was a billion years ago, **meaning something must be working to speed it up.***

*This result seems crazy because gravity always pulls and slows — it never pushes. **Yet some force appears to be pushing the universe apart.** Astronomers, concluding that we just don't know what this force is, have attributed it to a **mysterious dark energy.***

Definition of Dark Energy from Wikipedia.

-Hubblesite.org

Scientist don't know what energy it is that is expanding the universe and keeping it from stopping. They can't see or detect the energy. Might it be because it is The Source of all energy that keeps the universe expanding?

Psalm 19:1 (NASB) ...The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Jesus Himself, had reverence for the Father:

Hebrews 5:7 (NLT) While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.

Can finite man understand the Trinity?

THE AUTHORITY THAT RESIDES IN JESUS CHRIST:

Matthew 26:52-53 (NASB) 52 Then Jesus *said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. 53 "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

How many angels would there be in twelve legions? Since the word "legion" refers to at least 6,000, it means a legion of angels would be at least 6,000 angels. However, Jesus said the Father would give Him "more than" twelve legions of angels if He requested it. Because it would be pure speculation to try to figure out how many "more than" twelve legions would be, let's just stick with the figure of twelve legions to see how many angels that entails.

One legion is 6,000 angels, so if you simply multiply that number by twelve, you'll discover that twelve legions of angels would include a minimum of 72,000 angels. But Jesus said the Father would give Him more than twelve legions of angels; therefore, you can conclude that there were potentially many additional thousands of angels available to Jesus the night He was arrested!

Finally, let's look at our third question: What would be the combined strength in this number of angels? Angels are powerful! In fact, Isaiah 37:36 records that a single angel obliterated 185,000 men in one night. So if a single angel had that kind of power, how much combined strength would there be in twelve legions of angels?

Isaiah 37:36 (NASB) 36 Then the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, all of these were dead.

Since a single angel was able to obliterate 185,000 men in one night, it would mean the combined strength in a legion of 6,000 angels would be enough to destroy 1,110,000,000 men (that is, one billion, one hundred ten million men) — and that's just the combined power in one legion of angels!

Now let's multiply this same number 185,000 by twelve legions, or at least 72,000 angels, which was the number of angels Jesus said was available to Him on the night of His arrest. When we do, we find that there was enough combined strength at Jesus' disposal to have annihilated at least 13,320,000,000 men (that is, thirteen billion, three hundred twenty million men) — there are currently 7.5 billion people on earth.

<http://www.renner.org/problems/twelve-legions-of-angels/>

So what's the significance of reverential fear of Him? The significance of it is that it causes us to be right sized when we meditate and spend time thinking about who He is. We are right sized, as John the Baptist said:

John 3:30 (NASB) 30 "He must increase, but I must decrease.

One cannot be trying to satisfy the desires of self and also be fearing Him. You are either serving yourself or you are serving Him.

*Notice in this passage that the natural order is first looking to Him to increase in one's life and then the individual will decrease.

This is the understanding of the fear that is spoken of in scripture. It is the understanding of the totality of who He is. He is the creator of all of the universe, not only that He is the one holding it together simply with the word of His mouth. That is someone to be greatly revered.

Yet that same magnificent, marvelous, devastating large God wants fellowship with you and me! Stunning?!

This fear is good for us it causes us to believe and understand the following:

Psalms 56:11 (NASB) 11 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Romans 8:31 (NASB) 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

This fear or reverence for Him was missing in the Children of Israel:

Deuteronomy 5:29 (NASB) 29 'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!