

## FEAR of THE LORD Pt.2: NATURAL, REVERENTIAL

Last week we began this teaching series focusing on natural fear of the Lord, being afraid or scared of Him. We talked about King David being afraid of God when He killed Uzzah on the spot and when He sent the angel to destroy Jerusalem. King David was a man after God's own heart and yet there were plenty of times he had natural fear of God because he had seen Him act and pour out judgement right on the spot.

**Isaiah 8:13** - Sanctify the LORD of Hosts Himself (Make the Lord of Heaven's Armies holy in your life); and *let Him be your fear* (He is the One you should fear), and *let Him be your dread* (He is the One Who should make you tremble).

Here we see reverence and natural fear mentioned together. If we are going to be afraid of anything in this life, it should be God Himself.

**Luke 12:4-5** – And I say unto you My friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do (to you). But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear Him (God), which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him.

God rules over everything and we should fear Him above all else.

This next passage of scripture is about a time when the Israelites had demanded to have a king placed over them. God was supposed to be their king but they wanted a king over them like the nations surrounding them had kings.

**1 Samuel 12:18-20** – Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes. *Is it not wheat harvest today?* I will call unto the LORD, and He shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness *is* great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king. So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared (were terrified of) the LORD and Samuel. And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king. And

Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

The time of wheat harvest was not a normal time for rain in Israel. God answered Samuel's prayer in sending the thunder and rain which showed the people that it had never been God's desire for them to have a king other than Himself, but He permitted it. He backed up Samuel's words and this supernatural display caused them to be scared of Samuel and scared of God. This is one of those moments like I've been talking about where they were all struck in the heart in that moment knowing they had sinned against the all powerful God Himself.

Listen to this next passage of Scripture about God's judgement and how He will execute it against Gog in the future.

**Ezekiel 38:19-23** – For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day (When Gog comes against Israel) there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at My presence (tremble / quake in terror), and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall (cliffs will crumble), and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him (against Gog) throughout all My mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him (I will execute judgement against Gog) with pestilence (disease) and with blood (bloodshed); and I will rain (send torrents of rain) upon him, and upon his bands (his military), and upon the many people that *are* with him, an overflowing rain (torrential rain), and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone (burning sulfur). Thus will I magnify Myself (show My greatness), and sanctify Myself (show My holiness); and I will be known in the eyes of many nations (I will make Myself known to all the nations of the world), and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.

I think natural fear of God is being lost today because people are not familiar with His power and with His judgements. Today they blame all the bad stuff on God and still don't fear Him.

Our God is all powerful and He is to be feared with natural fear and reverential fear. All the world will know and acknowledge that He is Lord of all. **(Romans 14:11, Phil.2:10-11)** One day every knee is going to bow and every tongue is going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord – every knee in heaven, on the earth and under the earth – that is, everything that is holy and that is unholy is going to bow and confess to our King Jesus!

I want to read the first chapter of Malachi because I want you to see how broken down the fear of the Lord was at that time. Natural fear and reverential fear had gone out the window and that is from God's own priests as well as the people. The priests were to teach the people how to obey God. They were to teach the fear of the Lord and yet they themselves had no fear of God anymore.

**Malachi 1** - 1. The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. 2. I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? *Was* not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, 3. And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. 4. Whereas Edom (Esau's descendents) saith, We are impoverished (we have been crushed), but we will return and build the desolate places (we will rebuild the ruins); thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness (the land of wickedness), and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever (a people always under the wrath of the Lord). 5. And your eyes shall see (you will see it for yourselves), and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel (the Lord is great even beyond the borders of Israel). 6. A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a Father, where *is* Mine honour? and if I *be* a Master, where *is* My fear? saith the LORD of Hosts unto you, O priests, that despise My name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised Thy name? 7. Ye offer polluted bread (defiled sacrifices) upon Mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted Thee (defiled You)? In that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* contemptible (The altar of the Lord deserves no respect). 8. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil (wrong)? and if ye offer the lame and sick (crippled and diseased), *is it* not evil (wrong)? offer it now unto thy governor (try offering that to your governor); will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person (would he

accept you)? saith the LORD of Hosts (Lord of Heaven's armies). 9. And now, I pray you, beseech God that He will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons (But when you bring those kind of offerings, why should He show you any favor at all)? saith the LORD of Hosts. 10. Who *is there* even among you that would shut the doors *for nought*? neither do ye kindle *fire* on Mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of Hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. 11. For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same My name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense *shall be* offered unto My name, and a pure offering: for My name *shall be* great among the heathen (nations), saith the LORD of Hosts. 12. But ye have profaned it (dishonored My name), in that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* polluted (defiled); and the fruit thereof, *even* His meat (food), *is* contemptible (by bringing contemptible food, you are saying it is alright to defile the Lord's table). 13. Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it* (you say it is too hard to serve the Lord)! and ye have snuffed at it (you have turned up your noses at My commands), saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought *that which was* torn (injured), and the lame (crippled), and the sick (diseased); thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand(Should I accept offerings such as these)? saith the LORD. 14. But cursed *be* the deceiver (the cheat), which hath in his flock a male (who has an acceptable male in his flock), and voweth, (but then) sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and My name *is* dreadful among the heathen (My name is to be feared among the nations).

About God hating Esau, Esau did not love God or care about the things of God. He easily sold his first born birthright to Jacob. The firstborn birthright was all about having God's blessing on your life. God knew what and how Esau would be before He was ever born.

V. 2 – “How have You loved us?” - Which declares their great ingratitude that did not acknowledge this love, which was so evident, in that He chose Abraham from out of all the world, and next chose Jacob the younger brother of whom they came, and left Esau the elder.

V. 6 – “O Priests, that despise My Name” - Besides the rest of the people He condemns the Priests chiefly because they should have reproved others for their hypocrisy, and obstinacy against God, and not have hardened them by their example to greater evils. He notes their gross hypocrisy, which would not see their faults, but most impudently covered them, and so were blind guides.

V. 7- “You offer unclean bread” - You receive all manner of offerings for your own greediness, and do not examine whether they are according to My law or not. The table of the Lord is not to be regarded – Not that they said this, but by their doings they declared no less.

V. 8 – They were allowing people to offer blind animals for sacrifices – You make it no fault: whereby He condemns them, that think it sufficient to serve God partly, as He has commanded, & partly after man’s fantasy and so come not to that pureness of religion, which He requires, and therefore in reproach He shows them that a mortal man would not be content to be so served.

V.9 – “pray before God” - He derides the priests who bare the people in hand, that they prayed for them and shows that they were the occasion, that these evils came upon the people. Will He regard your persons? – Will God consider your office and state, seeing you are so covetous, and wicked? No, He would not.

V.10 – “shut the doors” – Because the Levites who kept the doors did not try whether the sacrifices that came in were according to the Law, God wishes that they would rather shut the doors than to receive such as were not perfect. He doesn’t even want them to kindle a fire because He doesn’t want these poor excuses for offerings and sacrifices.

V.11 – God shows that because of their ingratitude and neglect of His true service, He will call the gentiles / the nations to Himself.

V.12 – “The table of the Lord is polluted” – Both the priests and the people were infected with this error, that they did not care what was offered: for they thought that God was content with the lean as with the fat: but in the mean season they showed not that obedience to God, which He required and so committed both impiety, and also showed their contempt of God and covetousness.

V.13 – “you said it is a weariness and snuffed at it” – The priests and the people were both weary with serving God, and did not care what manner of sacrifice and service they gave to God, for that which was least profitable, was thought good enough for the Lord.

V.14 – “has a male and vows and sacrifices unto the Lord a corrupt thing” – That is, has the ability to serve the Lord according to His Word, and yet will serve Him according to his covetous mind.

Are you giving God your leftovers? Are you giving at all? I will talk about this more as we get deeper into this teaching.

**Hosea 4:6** - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (My people perish for lack of knowledge): because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to Me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of Thy God, I will also forget thy children (I will not bless your children).

God’s own ministers had no fear, that is reverence and honor and no natural fear either. The priests were not abiding by His laws and commands in the Old Testament and they were not teaching God’s ways to the people either. This describes the church today as well. Most don’t know how to serve Him and how to honor Him. They do not read His Word to know Him or know what He expects of them and they are not being taught in the worldly churches either.

**John 14:15** - If ye love Me, keep (obey) My commandments.

You will never fully learn and understand how to obey God if you don’t read all of His Word. It is more than the 10 commandments or the 1<sup>st</sup> and second commandments that Jesus gave to us. **(Matt.22:36-40)** Read God’s Word, pray, train up your children, love your enemies, be a cheerful giver, love justice, judge righteously, don’t lust, wait on the Lord, keep the faith and so much more is packed into the Bible.

That Scripture we just read about keeping God’s commandments ties right back to this next Old Testament passage:

**Deuteronomy 7:9-10** - Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations; And repayeth them that hate Him to their face, to destroy them: He will not be slack to him that hateth Him, He will repay him to his face (He does not hesitate to punish and destroy those that reject Him).

As God has promised blessing to those that love Him, so has He pronounced curses, vengeance and wrath to them that Hate Him. The false teachers today love to sit on this one point: Jesus loves you unconditionally. Let's get this straightened out right now. God loves everyone and that is why He sent Jesus the first time so that we could be redeemed back to Him. But we have a choice to make, to choose to repent and obey or not. God loves us but if we don't choose Jesus and obey we will spend eternity in the lake of fire. Their teaching of, Jesus loves you unconditionally is setting many people up for damnation because they believe they can live any way they want to and in the end of it all that God will allow them into heaven. They are being deceived.

**James 2:19** - Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well (good for you): the devils also believe, and tremble.

The fallen angels have enough sense to at least have natural fear of God. There are so many today that are hardened against God and that hate Him. I wonder what the last moments on their death beds will be like. Many atheists and God haters have called on Him from their death beds. Let's fear God now and thank Him for His mercy and grace to us that He has preserved us this long.

**Philippians 2:12** - Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear).

**Luke 7:11-17** - And it came to pass the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and much people. Now when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the

only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And He came and touched the bier (coffin): and they that bare *Him* stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited His people. And this rumour (news) of Him went forth throughout all Judaea (Judah), and throughout all the region round about.

They were scared when they saw the dead man come back to life and that natural fear moved them to praise God.

The Egyptians were scared that the Israelites would outnumber them and they wanted to retain control over them keeping them as slaves, so Pharaoh ordered all the first born male babies to be killed.

**Exodus 1:17,20-21** - But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. **V. 20** Therefore God dealt well with the midwives (He was kind to them): and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. **V. 21** And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that He made them houses (He gave them families of their own).

They feared God more than Pharaoh and God blessed them with families of their own. God sees those who fear Him and honor Him.

## **CLOSING**

**Psalm 119:120** – written by King David - My flesh trembleth for fear of Thee; and I am afraid of Thy judgments.

Note – Thy judgements do not only teach me obedience, but cause me to fear, considering my own weakness, which fear causes repentance.

When you really mess up and the Holy Spirit brings it to your attention, it should cause true sorrow and repentance. We should always fear staying in a sinful state



against God and for fear of Him we should be moved to ask forgiveness and repent quickly. Both natural fear and reverential fear.

## **PRAYING**