

# Whom We Ought to Fear

## (1) After Noah Exited the Ark (Gen 9:2):

“<sup>9.2</sup>Now the fear of you and the terror of you will be on every living thing of the land, and on every bird of the sky. With everything that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they have been given.” – Relationship of animals to mankind, post-flood

## (2) After Abram Freed Lot from Mesopot. Kings (Gen 15:1):

“<sup>15.1</sup>After these things, the word of He-who-is came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not fear, Abram. I am a shield to you.’” – Potential for Mesopotamian kings to seek revenge

## (3) After Abraham Deceived Abimelech (Gen 20:10–11):

“<sup>20.10</sup>Then Abimelech said to Abraham, ‘What have you seen that you did this thing?’  
<sup>20.11</sup>So Abraham said, ‘I did it because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me on account of my wife.’” – Abraham’s fear that they would kill him

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## (4) When Abraham Was about to Sacrifice Isaac (Gen 22:12):

“<sup>22.12</sup>Then he [God] said, ‘Do not stretch out your hand against the boy, and do nothing to him, because now I know that **you fear God**, since you have not withheld your son, your only son.’” – God’s testing of Abraham proved that his fear of God was genuine and real.

## (5) When Jacob Was to Meet Esau in His Old Age (Gen 32:11):

“<sup>32.11</sup>Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, because **I have feared him**, that he would come and strike me down, *along with the mothers and their children.*” – A great example of what fear means, namely in a person-to-person relationship

## (6) Just before the Parting of the Sea of Reeds (Exod 14:13):

“<sup>14.13</sup>Yet Moses said to the people, ‘**Do not fear!** Stand here and see the salvation of He-who-is that he will accomplish for you today, because the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will not be seeing them again, forever.’” – Prohibition for fearing Egypt’s army

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(7) After **God Appeared** at Mt. Sinai (Exod 20:19–20):

“<sup>20.19</sup>Then they [the Israelites] said to Moses, ‘Speak to us yourself, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.’ <sup>20.20</sup>So Moses said to the people, ‘**Do not be afraid**, because God has come in order to test you, and in order that **the fear of him would remain with you**, so that you would not sin.’” – God’s test leads to the permanent fear of him

(8) Solomon’s Take on the Beginning of Wisdom (Prov 9:10):

“<sup>9.10</sup>The beginning of wisdom is **the fear of He-who-is**” – Fear of God begins wisdom

(9) Instructions on the Marital Relationship (Eph 5:33):

“<sup>5.33</sup>Nevertheless also as for you, let each one likewise love his own wife as himself. But **as for the wife, let her see to it that she fear her husband.**” – Wives are to fear their husbands

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(10) Jesus's Teaching on Whom to Fear (Matt 10:28):

“<sup>10.28</sup>So do not fear the one who kills the body, but are unable to kill the soul. Yet rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” – Fearing man vs, fearing God

(11) After Confidence in the Day of Judgment (1 John 4:18):

“<sup>4.18</sup>Fear is not in the love, but the complete love casts out the fear, because fear includes punishment, and the one continuing to fear has not been completed in the love.” – The confidence that is needed at judgment day should come without fear.