



He Shall Be Your Fear

*"You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!'
In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy,
And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it.
It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy.
And **He shall be your fear**,
And **He shall be your dread**. (Is. 8:12-13)*

The underlying Hebrew word used in this instance for "fear" is "morah". (Strong's #4172) It is referring to an object of reverence. "Dread" is "arats" (Strong's 6206) and depicts trembling in the course of feeling awe for that object of reference. "Fearing" is often found to be closely associated with proper living— that is, to be obedient to God's Word and ways in the course of one's daily life. (e.g., Lev. 19:14; 25:17; 2 Ki. 17:34; Dt. 17:19) "Dread" in the biblical sense means that proper fear of Yahweh negates ever fearing anything else. Both of these overlapping conditions are not just experienced in the course of what God has done for us in this life, but even more so in those whose eyes are no longer fixed on this temporal life, but consistently glued to the eternal life to come. Such are more concerned for how everything plays into their life in eternity than shoring up that which is attached to this temporary predecessor.

But it is important to keep in mind that the primary context of this verse is not referring to any and all people but God's people alone. They have embraced the very same behavior their non-believing counterparts regularly display in their concern for this life. Believers are to live in fear of the One who has control not just of events in this life but the next. "*He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread*". God's people are not supposed to live in fear or dread of the things which are the object of the world's attention, but those things which are the object of God's attention. The world sees conspiracies and shadows where there are none and yet acts upon them out of their own fear and dread. We can easily join in with the world to share their fear and dread, but to live faithfully according to His Word means to possess a completely different perspective.

A good example is funerals. While the death of a fellow Christian causes us to mourn to a certain degree in the flesh like everyone else, the service always embraces the celebratory hope of life eternal in a right and better place. Ask a pastor what it is like to conduct a funeral service for an unsaved individual, and you will most often be told how monumentally difficult it is, having nothing to recite except the earthly resumé of the departed. The difference between the two has to do with the next life rather than this present one.

There are many things in this life which can be temporary or even permanent objects of our fear— that is, changes in our lifestyle, and which we might even come to regard more than Christ Himself. This is especially true in these End Times when we are experiencing the birth pangs which are just a small taste of the ultimate fulfillments to

come. We tend to overlook Christ's admonition, "So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near." (Lk. 21:31) When Christians get caught up in the same responses and fear of the world in the face of such things, they seem to forget they're about to be caught up to eternity and instead make a desperate and last grasp at this temporal state of affairs. But whether raptured alive or resurrected through death, it is still the same ultimate destination in eternity. Jim Elliot, a missionary who was martyred in Ecuador in the service of Christ put it best:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

Or as Christ Himself taught:

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. (Mt. 16:26-27)

I am not advocating we endorse or even embrace extreme behaviors which ignore all commonsense measures of personal safety and reasonable precautions. The issue is when the spiritual focus of our life becomes obsessed with anything other than Christ. And it's particularly ironic in a time when so many— Christian and non-Christian alike, are sounding an alarm in the midst of what they call a plague or judgment of God. When the original plagues of Egypt were authentically invoked by God, Moses explained the purpose of such where God's people were concerned:

*Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order **to test you**, and **in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.**" (Ex. 20:20)*

While it's axiomatically true that we are to always live in obedience to His Word and ways, it is even more critical in times of trial and testing.

I will not belabor the point any further, other than to close with but a small sampling of the many Scriptures illuminating this topic. Perhaps we need to study all the listings of "fear" in our concordance and meditate on their message while performing a self-assessment as to what and whom, exactly, we fear and dread.

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (Ps. 23:4)*

*Behold, **the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him**,
On those who hope for His lovingkindness,
To deliver their soul from death
And to keep them alive in famine.
Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart rejoices in Him,
Because we trust in His holy name.
Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
According as we have hoped in You. (Ps.33:18-22)*

"He Shall Be Your Fear", Page 2 of 3

God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should
change

And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;

Though its waters roar and foam,

Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

(Ps. 46:1-3)

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

So great is His lovingkindness **toward those who fear Him.**

(Ps. 103:11)

As for man, his days are like grass;

As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

When the wind has passed over it, it is no more,

And its place acknowledges it no longer.

But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to
everlasting **on those who fear Him,**

And His righteousness to children's children,

To those who keep His covenant

And remember His precepts to do them. (Ps. 103:15-18)

The LORD favors **those who fear Him,**

Those who wait for His lovingkindness. (Ps. 147:11)

In Him,

Servant@WalkWithTheWord.org