

## **FEAR of GOD - as a FACT**

**Found in 73 verses from our list**

These verses show us that the COMMAND to fear (seen in other verses) is not a mere *wish* or *religious talk*. Scripture shows us that people actually did what they were supposed to do. People today who refuse to fear God have no legitimate excuse!

In many instances, this *fear* is associated with some other character trait, or else results in some type of action. This is not our focus here, so only the *fear* part of the verses is listed. This word may be translated as *fear*, *afraid*, *revere*, etc., and is shown in italics.

The context of the passages will show the specific nature of the *fear* that is mentioned.

**1. AN IMPORTANT CONCEPT: This verse illustrates two types of fear. (It shows that context will determine the significance of the word.)**

Exodus 20:20 - Moses told the people, "Do not be *afraid*. God has come to test you, so that the *fear* of him will remain with you to keep you from sinning."

**2. He/they "feared God." (A basic statement of fact, a general attitude.)**

Genesis 22:12 - About Abraham: I know that you *fear* God.

Genesis 42:18 - Joseph, to his brothers (who did not recognize him): I *fear* God.

Exodus 1:17 - The midwives *feared* God (and did not kill the babies).

Exodus 1:21 - The midwives *feared* God.

2 Kings 4:1 - Unnamed prophet from the past ... he *revered* the Lord.

Nehemiah 7:2 - Hananiah the commander of the fortress (or perhaps Hanani, also mentioned in the verse) ... a faithful man who *feared* God more than many.

Job 1:1 - A man named Job... *feared* God.

Job 1:8 - Job ... a man who *fears* God.

Job 2:3 - Job... a man who *fears* God.

Jeremiah 26:19 - Hezekiah *feared* the Lord and sought his favor.

Haggai 1:12 - The people who had returned from the exile: They all showed *reverence* for the Lord.

Malachi 2:5 Levi... *revered* Me, and stood in awe of My name.

Acts 9:31 - The church throughout the area was living in the *fear* of the Lord.

Acts 10:2 - Cornelius and all his family were devout and God-*fearing*.

Acts 10:22 - Cornelius is a righteous and God-*fearing* man.

**3. At a specific time or situation. (These may be unique situations or temporary instances.)**

Exodus 3:6 - Moses (at the burning bush) hid his face, because he was *afraid* to look at God.

Exodus 14:31 - When Israel saw the Lord's great power against the Egyptians, they *feared* the Lord.

Joshua 5:14 - When the commander of the Lord's army came, Joshua fell facedown to the ground in *reverence*.

2 Samuel 6:9 - When Uzzah touched the ark and died: David was *afraid* of God that day.

1 Chronicles 13:12 - When Uzzah touched the ark and died: David was *afraid* of God that day.

2 Chronicles 17:10 - During the reign of Jehoshaphat, the *fear* of the Lord was on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah. (They did not war with Judah.)

2 Chronicles 26:5 (some mss.) - Uzziah sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the *fear* of God. [Some mss - the *vision* of God.]

Job 9:35 - Job, during his affliction: "If only there were a mediator between God and I, then I could speak without *fearing* him, but as it now stands, I cannot."

Job 23:15 - Job, during his affliction, and expecting more to come: "This is why I am terrified of him; ... I *fear* him."

Jonah 1:16 - (The men threw Jonah overboard and the sea grew calm.) Then the men greatly *feared* the Lord, ... offered a sacrifice ... made vows to him.

Acts 7:32 - Moses (at the burning bush) shook with *fear* and did not dare to look.

Hebrews 12:21 - Moses (at Mount Sinai) was trembling and *afraid*.

**4. A generalized statement. (Nobody is specifically referred to.)**

Job 37:24 - Men *revere* him (i.e., God, because of his power, justice and greatness).

Psalms 65:8 - Those living in distant places stand in *awe* of your wonders.

Psalms 76:12 - He is *feared* by the kings of the earth.

Psalms 89:7 - God is greatly *feared* in the council of the holy ones (= those who stand in his presence).

Psalms 119:120 - (Anonymous) My flesh trembles in *fear* of you.

**5. Emphasis is on the reason for the fear.**

Genesis 3:10 - Adam: "I heard you in the garden. I was *afraid* because I was naked; so I hid."

Genesis 28:17 - After Jacob's dream of a stairway to heaven: He was *afraid* and said, "How awesome is this place... the house of God, the gate of heaven!"

Deuteronomy 9:19 - Moses, recounting an event in which Israel had sinned against God: "I was *afraid* of the Lord's anger and hot displeasure against you."

2 Chronicles 20:29 - During the reign of Jehoshaphat, the *fear* of God was on all the surrounding kingdoms, when they heard that the Lord had fought against Israel's enemies.

Psalms 76:8 - When the Lord pronounced judgment: The earth *feared*, and was quiet.

Acts 5:11 - Great *fear* came upon the whole church, as well as on all who heard about the death of Ananias and Sapphira.

Acts 19:17 - When the people heard about what happened to the sons of Sceva (v. 13-17): *Fear* fell upon them all.

**6. Emphasis is on something about those who feared God.**

Ezra 10:3 - The people: "Let us make a covenant before our God ... in accordance with the counsel of my lord and of those who *fear* the commands of our God." [= Their counsel was worthy of consideration.]

Malachi 3:16 - Those who *feared* the Lord - encouraged each other and the Lord took note of it. A book of remembrance was written for those who *feared* the Lord.

Acts 13:26 - The message of salvation is for both children of Abraham, and God-*fearing* Gentiles.

2 Corinthians 5:11 - Since we know what it means to *fear* the Lord, we try to persuade others (about the good news).

**7. Anticipation of fear in the future. (Refers to a point in time *after* the statement was made, and is often a prophetic statement.)**

Joshua 4:24 - God stopped the Jordan River so that ... you might always *fear* the Lord your God.

1 Kings 8:39-40 - Part of a prayer: (When Israel is judged and they turn back and pray) ... then respond according to what is in their hearts, so that they may *fear* you all the days that they live in the land.

Psalms 5:7 - David (because of the Lord's mercy): "I will bow in *reverence* toward your holy temple."

Psalms 40:3 - Many will see (my expression of praise) and *fear*, and will trust in the Lord.

Psalms 52:6 - The righteous will see (the judgment of the wicked) and *fear*.

Psalms 64:9 - All mankind will *fear* (when they see God's judgments).

Psalms 67:7 - God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will *fear* him.

Psalms 102:15 - (When God shows favor to Israel) ... the nations will *fear* the name of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:3 - The future king (= Jesus) will delight in the *fear* of the Lord.

Isaiah 19:16 - The Egyptians, in the day of judgment ... will shudder with *fear* (as the Lord Almighty raises his hand against them).

Isaiah 25:3 - (Because of God's judgments) ... a strong people will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will *revere* you.

Isaiah 59:19 - (When God comes in judgment) ... people from both east and west will *fear* the name of the Lord.

Micah 7:17 - (When the nations are judged) ...they will come with dread to the Lord our God; they will be *afraid* because of you (God).

Zechariah 9:5 - (When God comes in judgment...) Ashkelon will see it and be *afraid*.

**8. The "ought" or obligation to fear. (Sometimes a command is implied.)**

Deuteronomy 5:29 - Oh that Israel's hearts would be inclined to *fear* me!

Psalm 76:7 - You alone must be *feared*.

Psalm 96:4 - The Lord ... is to be *feared* above all gods.

Jeremiah 10:7 - Who would not *fear* you, O King of the nations? This is your due!

Amos 3:8 - The lion (God) has roared--who will not *fear*?

Malachi 1:14 - My name is *feared* among the nations.

Revelation 15:4 - Who will not *fear* you, O Lord, and glorify your name?

**9. The word "fear" as part of a title or description of God.**

Isaiah 11:2 - "The Spirit ... of the *fear* of the Lord" (= the Holy Spirit) will rest on Him (the future king - Jesus).

Genesis 31:42 - "the *Fear* of his (Jacob's) father Isaac" (= the God of Abraham).

Genesis 31:53 - "the *Fear* of his (Jacob's) father Isaac" (= the God of Abraham and of Nahor).

**10. "God-fearing" as a description of people who "worship" or have "devotion" to God (either the true God or a false god).**

Acts 2:5 - God-*fearing* Jews were staying in Jerusalem.

Acts 13:50 - God-*fearing* women (and also men of the city) persecuted Paul and Barnabas.

Acts 17:4 - A large number of God-*fearing* Greeks (and others) joined Paul and Silas.

Acts 17:17 - Paul reasoned with God-*fearing* Greeks (and others).

**Verses used:** Genesis 3:10; 22:12; 28:17; 31:42, 53; 42:18; Exodus 1:17, 21; 3:6; 14:31; 20:20; Deut. 5:29; 9:19; Joshua 4:24; 5:14; 2 Samuel 6:9; 1 Kings 8:39-40; 2 Kings 4:1; 1 Chron. 13:12; 2 Chron. 17:10; 20:29; 26:5; Ezra 10:3; Neh. 7:2; Job 1:1, 8; 2:3; 9:35; 23:15; 37:24; Psalm 5:7; 40:3; 52:6; 64:9; 65:8; 67:7; 76:7-8, 12; 89:7; 96:4; 102:15; 119:120; Isaiah 11:2-3; 19:16; 25:3; 59:19; Jeremiah 10:7; 26:19; Amos 3:8; Jonah 1:16; Micah 7:17; Haggai 1:12; Zech. 9:5; Malachi 1:14; 2:5; 3:16; Acts 2:5; 5:11; 7:32; 9:31; 10:2, 22; 13:26, 50; 17:4, 17; 19:17; 2 Cor. 5:11; Hebrews 12:21; Rev. 15:4.