

THE FEAR OF GOD - About the fear itself

Found in 29 verses from our list

Unlike many people today, Scripture describes the "fear of God" in a very positive way. Not only is it a necessity, but it is also good! It is to influence *all* aspects of one's life.

Since the concept of "fear" can be translated several ways (including words such as "afraid" and "reverence"), it is put in italics, where present in the verses listed below.

1. Make sure it is the God of the Bible who you fear!

- a. In these three verses, the concept "God-fearing" is similar to our term "religious." The "fear" is not necessarily directed toward the God of the Bible.
- b. Used of unsaved people who tended to be religious, but who *did not* accept the good news of salvation.
Acts 13:50 - The Jews aroused the prominent *God-fearing* women and the leading men of the city, to start a persecution against Paul and Barnabas.
- c. Used of people who *did* listen to the message of good news, and who (at least in some cases) *did* turn to the God of the Bible.
Acts 17:4 - Some of the Jews became convinced about the truth and joined Paul and Silas, as did many *God-fearing* Greeks.
Acts 17:17 - Paul reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the *God-fearing* Greeks, as well as with anyone else he happened to meet.

2. Fear of God is a requirement, and must take precedence over all other types of fear.

- a. We owe it to God.
1 Chron. 16:25 - He is to be *feared* above all gods (v. 26+ explains why).
Jeremiah 10:7 - Who should not *fear* you, O King of the nations? This is what we owe you! ... There is no one like you!
- b. Two examples to illustrate its importance.
Proverbs 15:16 - Better a little with the *fear* of the Lord, than many possessions with turmoil.
Proverbs 31:30 - The woman who *fears* the Lord should be praised - rather than those who have only temporary qualities, such as charm (can be deceptive), and beauty (lasts but a moment).

- c. It must take priority over fear of people.
 - Matthew 10:28 - Do not *fear* those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul. *Fear* him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
 - Luke 12:4-5 - Do not be *afraid* of those who kill the body, but after that can do no more. Instead, this is the one you should *fear*: *Fear* him who has power to throw you into hell, after the body is killed. Yes, I tell you, *fear* him.
- d. It is an all-encompassing attitude toward God, not merely fear of what he can do.
 - Exodus 20:20 - Do not be *afraid* (of the terrifying display of God's power - v. 18-19). God is testing you, so that the *fear* of God will be with you.

3. It is an obligation; it can be learned and chosen.

- a. People can command others to fear God.
 - Daniel 6:26 - I make a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must *fear* and tremble before the God of Daniel.
- b. It is a choice.
 - Proverbs 1:29 - (The focus in this verse is on those who were unwilling to do so.) They did not choose to *fear* the Lord.
- c. It can be taught and learned.
 - Deut. 14:23 - ... so that you may learn to *fear* the Lord your God always.
 - Deut. 17:19 - ... so that he may learn to *fear* the Lord his God.
 - Deut. 31:12-13 - Assemble the people ... so they can listen and learn to *fear* the Lord your God. Their children must hear it and learn to *fear* the Lord your God.
 - Deut. 31:13 - Their children must hear this law and learn to *fear* the Lord your God.
 - Psalms 34:11 - My children, I will teach you the *fear* of the Lord.
- d. It can be understood.
 - Proverbs 2:5 - You will understand the *fear* of the Lord (if you choose to pursue wisdom - see the context).

4. It must have a constant and welcome presence in one's life.

- a. To be done continually.
Proverbs 23:17 - Always continue to *fear* the Lord.
- b. A delight (an example).
Isaiah 11:3 - He (the Lord's servant = Jesus) will delight in the *fear* of the Lord.
- c. A constant influence in how you live.
1 Peter 1:17 - You must live your lives as temporary residents here (on this present earth) in *reverent fear*.

5. It is pure; and when it is present, it will influence one's conduct.

- a. Pure, not with ulterior motives.
Job 1:9 - (Spoken by Satan:) "Does Job *fear* God for nothing?" [The events that followed would prove Satan's accusation false.]
Psalm 19:9 - The *fear* of the Lord is pure; it endures forever.
- b. Associated with wisdom and knowledge.
Psalm 111:10 - The *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
Proverbs 1:7 - The *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
Proverbs 9:10 - The *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
Micah 6:9 - To *fear* your name is wisdom.
- c. Associated with hatred of evil.
Proverbs 8:13 - To *fear* the Lord is to hate evil.

Verses used: Exodus 20:20; Deut. 14:23; 17:19; 31:12-13; 1 Chron. 16:25; Job 1:9; Psalm 19:9; 34:11; 111:10; Proverbs 1:7, 29; 2:5; 8:13; 9:10; 15:16; 23:17; 31:30; Isaiah 11:3; Jeremiah 10:7; Daniel 6:26; Micah 6:9; Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:4-5; Acts 13:50; 17:4, 17; 1 Peter 1:17.

THE COMMAND TO FEAR (or Revere) GOD

Found in 36 verses from our list

Only the "fear" part of the verses is listed. Many of the commands are connected with concepts such as service, love, obedience, etc. Some of the commands contrast fear of God (which we must have) to some type of sin (which we must avoid). However, our purpose at this point is simply to demonstrate the obligation we have to fear God, not to demonstrate its compatibility with other godly character traits, or its incompatibility with sinful conduct. Unless stated, the recipients of the command are people who belong to God, or who at least claim to.

In a few verses, the obligation is stated indirectly, or is implied in the form of a rhetorical question.

Since the concept of "fear" can be translated several ways (including words such as "afraid" and "reverence"), it is put in italics, where present in the verses listed below.

1. "Do it. (A basic command.)

Leviticus 19:14 - *Fear* your God.
Leviticus 19:32 - *Revere* your God.
Leviticus 25:17 - *Fear* your God.
Leviticus 25:36 - *Fear* your God.
Leviticus 25:43 - *Fear* your God.
Deuteronomy 6:13 - *Fear* the Lord your God.
Deuteronomy 10:20 - *Fear* the Lord your God.
Joshua 24:14 - Now *fear* the Lord.
Psalm 34:9 - *Fear* the Lord.
Proverbs 24:21 - *Fear* the Lord.
Proverbs 3:7 - *Fear* the Lord.
1 Peter 2:17 - *Fear* God.
Revelation 14:7 - *Fear* God.

2. It's our obligation to fear. (More details given than in the previous section.)

Deuteronomy 10:12 - All that the Lord your God asks of you: *fear* the Lord your God (etc.).
Deuteronomy 6:24 - The Lord commanded us ... to *fear* the Lord our God.
1 Samuel 12:24 - Be sure to *fear* the Lord.
Psalm 90:11 - Your wrath (over sin) is as great as the *fear* that is due you.
Jeremiah 5:22 - "Should you not *fear* me?" declares the Lord.

3. Who should we fear? (Specific emphasis: The God of the Bible is the one we must fear.)

Deuteronomy 13:4 - It is the Lord your God you must ... *revere*.
1 Chronicles 16:25 - The Lord ... is to be *feared* above all gods.
Psalm 96:4 - The Lord ... is to be *feared* above all gods.
Isaiah 8:13 - The Lord Almighty ... is the one you are to *fear*.

Daniel 6:26 - Decree by Nebuchadnezzar: People must *fear* ... the God of Daniel.
Matthew 10:28 - Be *afraid* of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell
(i.e., more than you *fear* humans, who can only kill your body).
Luke 12:5 - *Fear* him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you
into hell. Yes, I tell you, *fear* him.

4. Who should do the fearing? (Not just "believers.")

Deuteronomy 31:13 - Children must ... learn to *fear* the Lord your God.
Psalm 33:8 - Let all the earth (its inhabitants) *fear* the Lord.

5. It must influence our worship and service to God.

Psalm 2:11 - Serve the Lord with *fear*.
Hebrews 12:28 - Let us ... worship God acceptably with *reverence* and *awe*.
[These two words are not the same as the word "fear" seen in the other
New Testament verses. They have a slightly different emphasis.]

6. It must influence our attitude about salvation.

Romans 11:20 - Do not be arrogant (because you have been offered salvation and
others haven't), but be *afraid*. (God doesn't have to give you this offer.)
Philippians 2:12 - Continue to work out your salvation with *fear* and trembling
(since God is the one who gives you both the desire and the ability to do
so - v. 13).

7. It must influence the way we live.

2 Chronicles 19:7 - Now let the *fear* of the Lord be upon you. (Context:
promoting justice; avoiding injustice.)
2 Chronicles 19:9 - To the leaders: You must serve ... in the *fear* of the Lord.
Nehemiah 5:9 - Shouldn't you walk in the *fear* of our God? (Context: not taking
advantage of others.)
Proverbs 23:17 - Always be zealous for the *fear* of the Lord.
1 Peter 1:17 - Live your lives as strangers here (in this world) in *reverent fear*.

Passages used: Leviticus 19:14, 32; 25:17, 36, 43; Deut. 6:13, 24; 10:12, 20; 13:4; 31:13; Joshua 24:14; 1 Samuel 12:24; 1 Chron. 16:25; 2
Chron. 19:7, 9; Neh. 5:9; Psalm 2:11; 33:8; 34:9; 90:11; 96:4; Proverbs 3:7; 23:17; 24:21; Isaiah 8:13; Jeremiah 5:22; Daniel 6:26; Matthew
10:28; Luke 12:5; Romans 11:20; Philip. 2:12; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Peter 1:17; 2:17; Rev. 14:7.

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.

THE ABSENCE OF FEAR TOWARD GOD

Found in 28 passages from our list

The modern church tends to be filled with false teachers who downplay (or even deny) the need for people to fear God. They never tell you what Scripture associates with the lack of such fear. In fact, they wouldn't *want* you to know what it says, for then you would realize how false their teachings really were!

Scripture describes the "fear of God" as a *necessary* response from *all* people. Our focus here is on the *absence* of this fear. There are a few other types of fear mentioned at the end of this study, most of which tend to exist only when the proper "fear of God" is absent.

Note that some of the following verses are based on their contrast to the *presence* of fear toward God - especially when the passage is from the Psalms, Proverbs, or other section of Scripture that is written in a poetic structure. In Hebrew poetry, contrasting or opposite concepts are often grouped together, to show the differences in their characteristics, or the consequences of each.

Since the concept of "fear" can be translated several ways (including words such as "afraid" and "reverence"), it is put in italics, where present in the verses listed below.

1. Some of the CAUSES for lack of fear.

- a. It is a choice.
Proverbs 1:29 - They did not choose to *fear* the Lord.
- b. The actions of others may encourage it (though we are still responsible for *our* choices).
Joshua 22:25 - (A potential situation that hadn't happened.) If the 10 tribes of Israel (west of the Jordan River) made the Jordan a boundary between them and the Reubenites and Gadites, and said, "You have no share in the Lord" ... they might cause the descendants of the Reubenites and Gadites to stop *fearing* the Lord.
- c. (Possibly) - A misguided reaction to one's circumstances during trials.
Job 6:14 (In some translations, such as NIV) - Job mentions the theoretical scenario of a despairing man who forsakes the *fear* of the Almighty. [Job didn't do this; the passage is difficult to translate and might have a somewhat different meaning.]
- d. It may be a judgment from God, because of our deliberate rejection of him and our determination to sin.
Isaiah 63:17 - (Isaiah prays in behalf of the nation who has rejected God. The people themselves couldn't care less about their *true* spiritual condition. They denied that there was any problem.) Why, O Lord, do you ... harden our hearts so we do not *fear* you? Return to us... [This is a warning to those who choose to abandon God and turn to sin. If you reject God, he will give you what you want: he will give you over to your sin. But in doing so, your heart will become hardened in your sin - and this will be part of his judgment against you. See also Romans 1.]
- e. Many of the items listed in the next section could also be put here.

2. Things ASSOCIATED with lack of fear.

- a. Some of these passages are direct statements; some are implied, being based on stated contrasts to what it means to *have* fear of God.
- b. All sorts of sinfulness (passages containing lists).
 - Psalm 36:1 - Concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no *fear* of God before his eyes. [See v. 2 and following. These verses list many of the characteristics of the wicked.]
 - Malachi 3:5 - [The context contains a list of sins they willingly commit] ... but they do not *fear* me.
 - Romans 3:18 - There is no *fear* of God before their eyes. [See v. 10-17 for a description of these people. This verse is just the final summary, a quote of Psalm 36:1.]
- c. Lack of humility, disobedience to God.
 - Jeremiah 44:10 - They have not humbled themselves, shown *reverence*, or followed my law and the decrees.
- d. Despising the Lord.
 - Proverbs 14:2 - He who walks in uprightness *fears* the Lord; the person with devious ways despises him.
- e. Spiritual adultery (= putting other things ahead of God).
 - Jeremiah 3:8 - God speaking: I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away (into captivity) because of her constant adultery. Yet her unfaithful sister Judah did not *fear*; but also went out and committed adultery.
- f. Rebellious - toward both God and people.
 - Proverbs 24:21 - *Fear* the Lord and the king; don't join with the rebellious.
 - Jeremiah 5:23-24 - These people are stubborn and rebellious ... They do not say, "Let us *fear* the Lord our God."
- g. Murdering others (here referring to the attitude of a nation).
 - Deut. 25:18 - (The Amalekites...) cut off all who were lagging behind... because they (the Amalekites) had no *fear* of God.
- h. Not caring about others; unconcerned about justice.
 - Luke 18:2-4 - There was a judge who neither *feared* God nor cared about people. ... He refused to grant justice to the woman (until she wore him out with her pleas). But he finally gave in, "even though I don't *fear* God or care about people."
- i. Fear of others.
 - Isaiah 57:11 - Whom have you so dreaded and *feared* so much, that you have lied to me, have ignored me and not even given it any thought? I have been silent for a long time (because of your sins)... is this the reason you do not *fear* me?

- j. Hating knowledge.
Proverbs 1:29 - They hated knowledge and did not choose to *fear* the Lord. (Other passages emphasize the connection between fear and knowledge. Example: Proverbs 1:7.)
- k. Moral folly.
Proverbs 1:7 - The *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- l. Hard-hearted.
Proverbs 28:14 - Blessed is the man who always *fears* [the Lord]; but he who hardens his heart will meet disaster.
- m. Being hotheaded and self-confident.
Proverbs 14:16 - A wise man *fears* the Lord ... a fool is hotheaded and self-confident.

3. CONSEQUENCES of lack of fear.

- a. God will deal with them.
Psalm 55:19 - God, who is enthroned forever, will hear them and deal with them - men who have no *fear* of God.
- b. They will reap the consequences of their attitude and actions.
Proverbs 1:29 - They did not choose to *fear* the Lord, so... (they will eat the fruit of their ways - v. 31 - and other consequences in the following verses).
- c. Potential shortened life (or at least not *gaining* length of life).
Proverbs 10:27 - The *fear* of the Lord lengthens one's life; the years of the wicked are cut short.
Eccles. 8:13 - Because the wicked do not *fear* God, it will not go well with them. They won't live longer because of it.
- d. On a national level - judgment / destruction / lack of leadership.
Deut. 25:18-19 - You shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; because they had no *fear* of God (and so killed many of the Israelites).
Deut. 28:58 - If you do not *fear* his glorious and awesome name... (there will be consequences). [See the long list of judgments, beginning in verse 59. This is contrasted with the huge list of blessings for those who *do* fear God, listed elsewhere in the passage.]
Deut. 32:17 - They sacrificed to gods your fathers did not *fear*. [Consequences are listed in the verses that follow.]
Hosea 10:3 - They will say, "We have no king because we did not *fear* the Lord. And now it wouldn't do us any good even if we did have a king."
Malachi 3:5 - I will come near to you for judgment. (You who commit all kinds of sins) ... but do not *fear* me.

Note: When nations (or groups) are judged, innocent people *do* suffer, because of the sins of the majority. (Examples - Jeremiah and Daniel, who both had to experience the consequences of the destruction and captivity of Judea.) In such cases, those who fear God look forward to the final Day of Justice, when all things will be made right.

4. A few **EXAMPLES**.

Exodus 9:30 - Moses, to Pharaoh and his servants: "I know that you do not yet *fear* the Lord God."

Deut. 25:18 - (The Amalekites) ... had no *fear* of God.

Deut. 32:17 - (Prophecy about Israel) They sacrificed to demons... gods your fathers did not *fear*.

5. **UNNECESSARY (or forbidden) types of fear.**

- a. Fear of being tested by God.

Exodus 20:20 - Do not be *afraid* (about being tested by God). [It was in order that the *fear* of God (which *is* needed) would remain with them.]

- b. Fear of false gods.

Deut. 32:17 - (implied) ... gods your fathers did not *fear*.

- c. Fear of people.

Matthew 10:28 - Do not *fear* those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul. *Fear* him (God) who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 12:4-5 - Do not be *afraid* of those who kill the body, but after that can do no more. Instead, this is the one you should *fear*: *Fear* him who has power to throw you into hell, after the body is killed. Yes, I tell you, *fear* him.

Verses used: Exodus 9:30; 20:20; Deut. 25:18-19; 28:58; 32:17; Joshua 22:25; Job 6:14; Psalm 36:1; 55:19; Proverbs 1:7, 29; 10:27; 14:2, 16; 24:21; 28:14; Eccles. 8:13; Isaiah 57:11; 63:17; Jeremiah 3:8; 5:23-24; 44:10; Hosea 10:3; Malachi 3:5; Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:4-5; 18:2-4; Romans 3:18.

REASONS TO FEAR GOD

Found in 67 passages (79 verses) from our list.

There are many reasons to fear God; and some people might be surprised to learn that the majority of those reasons have nothing to do with being judged by him! Those who think that fear of God exists only because of judgment have a very distorted, truncated concept of fear.

Before sin entered the world, fear was still the proper response to God. But there was no need for the punishment aspect that people tend to think about. It is only after we, the human race, rebelled and joined the side of the evil one, that judgment came to have the "negative" characteristics we tend to associate with it. Before that, any judgment that would have occurred would have only resulted in blessings! Even now, though we tend to think of judgment as a punishment against evil, there is still the aspect of blessings for those who choose to follow God.

The context of a verse will determine the nature of the fear that is mentioned. Some passages focus on the type of fear that Scripture commands us to have; others focus on the fear that people will experience when they *don't* have the proper "fear of God." A few of the passages have a greater focus on the "fear of judgment" (though it may be related to the fear of God).

Since the concept of "fear" can be translated several ways (including words such as "afraid" and "reverence"), it is put in italics, where present in the verses listed below.

1. WHO GOD IS - being aware of God and his character.

a. Because of his greatness - great in many ways.

Job 37:23-24 - The Almighty is beyond our reach, exalted in power; with justice and righteousness, not oppressing... therefore, men *revere* him.

Daniel 6:26 - People must *fear* and tremble before the God of Daniel. He is the living God; he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed; his rule will never end.

Malachi 1:14 - "I am a great King," says the Lord Almighty. "My name is (to be) *feared* among the nations."

Rev. 15:4 - Who will not *fear* you, O Lord, ... for you alone are holy.

b. Because we owe it to God.

Jeremiah 10:7 - Who should not *fear* you, O King of the nations? This is what we owe you! ... There is no one like you!

c. Reactions of people who found themselves in God's presence.

Genesis 28:17 - Jacob was *afraid* ... "This place is the house of God, the gate of heaven."

Exodus 3:6 - God said, "I am the God of your father/Abraham/Isaac/Jacob." Moses hid his face, because he was *afraid* to look at God.

Acts 7:32 - (God spoke to Moses from the burning bush.) Moses shook with *fear* and dared not look at him.

2. God's POWER and MIGHT.

- a. The unchangeable nature of what God does.
Eccles. 3:14 - Everything God does will remain forever; people can't add to it or subtract from it. God does this so that people will *fear* him.
- b. Displayed in creation.
Psalm 33:8-9 - Let all the peoples of the earth *fear* the Lord; ... for he spoke, and all creation came to be.
Psalm 65:8 - Those living at the ends of the earth *fear* your wonders [referring to God's works in creation].
Jeremiah 5:22 - Should you not *fear* me and tremble in my presence? [... because of his works in creation - v. 22 - 24]
- c. Displayed in miraculous events.
Joshua 4:23-24 - The Lord your God dried up the Jordan ... so that you might always *fear* the Lord your God.
Jonah 1:15-16 - They threw Jonah overboard, and the sea grew calm. Seeing this, the men greatly *feared* the Lord.
Acts 19:17 (see v. 11-20) - (God was working miracles through Paul, and some Jews tried to imitate him. The demon acknowledged Jesus and Paul, but overpowered and beat the Jews so terribly, that they fled naked and bleeding.) Those who heard about this were seized with *fear*, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored.
- d. The power and might that surrounds his presence.
Exodus 20:18, 20 - The people saw the thunder/lightning/smoke and heard the trumpet; they trembled with *fear*. Moses' explanation of why God did it: God is testing you, so that the *fear* of God will be with you.
Hebrews 12:21 - The sight (of the mountain covered with fire, darkness, gloom and storm) was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling and *afraid*."

3. Awareness of God's WORD or message (the Bible).

- a. Hearing God speak audibly (Israel at Mt. Sinai).
Deut. 4:10 - God said, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to *fear* me as long as they live in the land ..."
- b. Being taught / learning God's Word.
Deut. 6:1-2 - (Being taught God's laws/decrees...) so that you, your children and grandchildren (etc.) may *fear* the Lord your God as long as you live.
Deut. 17:19 - The law is to be with him (= any future king). He must read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to *fear* the Lord his God.
Deut. 31:12-13 - Assemble the people so they can listen (to the law) and learn to *fear* the Lord your God. Their children must hear it and learn to *fear* the Lord your God.

- c. The warning of judgment (and other facts from God's Word).
 - Amos 3:8 - The lion has roared! Who will not *fear*? The Sovereign Lord has spoken! Who can keep from prophesying? (In this case, it was a message of judgment.)
 - Acts 24:25 - Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come. Felix was *terrified* (and sent Paul away). [This was the wrong type of fear. Sadly, he did not repent and turn to God.]

4. God's BLESSINGS.

- a. Past and present blessings.
 - 1 Samuel 12:24 - *Fear* the Lord ... consider what great things he has done for you.
- b. Future blessings.
 - Hebrews 12:28 - Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and (in doing this) worship God in an acceptable way, with *reverence* and awe.
 - Psalms 102:15 - All the nations will *fear* the name of the Lord and (will *fear*) his glory. The Lord will have compassion on Zion (Jerusalem) and rebuild it, and will appear in his glory.
- c. Promises - made and kept.
 - Malachi 2:5 - The covenant I gave him (Levi) was one of life and peace. This called for *reverence*. He *revered* Me, and stood in awe of My name.
 - Psalms 119:38 - Fulfill your promise to me your servant, so that you may be *feared*.
- d. Forgiveness.
 - Psalms 130:4 - With you there is forgiveness; so that you will be *feared*.
- e. Prayers - heard and answered.
 - 1 Kings 8:40 - (When your people repent and pray, answer them) ... so that they will *fear* you all the time they live in the land.
 - 1 Kings 8:43 - (When a foreigner prays to you) ... hear/answer, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and *fear* you.
 - 2 Chron. 6:31 - (When your people repent and pray, answer them) ... so that they will *fear* you and walk in your ways.
 - 2 Chron. 6:33 - (When a foreigner prays to you) ... hear/answer, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and *fear* you.
- f. Our celebration of God's blessings can encourage us to fear God.
 - Deut. 14:23 - Eat the tithe of your (crops, herds, etc.) in the Lord's presence (at the place he will choose), so that you may learn to *fear* the Lord your God always.
- g. Our praise to God - may result in others fearing him.
 - Psalms 40:3 - ... a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and *fear* (and trust God)...
 - Psalms 67:5-7 - May the peoples praise you, O God... our God will bless us... and all the ends of the earth will *fear* him.

5. The effects of MORAL CHARACTER on fear of God.

- a. The result of pursuing (and attaining) wisdom.
Proverbs 2:5 - (If you search for wisdom, etc.) ... you will understand the *fear* of the Lord.
Proverbs 14:16 - A wise man *fears* [the Lord].
- b. The result of walking upright (morally).
Proverbs 14:2 - He who walks in uprightness *fears* the Lord.
- c. The result of an undivided, focused heart (which is a gift from God).
Psalm 86:11 - Teach me your way, O Lord, ... focus my heart and I will *fear* your name.
Jeremiah 32:39 - I will give them an undivided heart and purpose, so that they will always *fear* me...
- d. An awareness of what type of people God accepts.
Job 37:24 - People *revere* him. Doesn't God have regard for all the wise in heart (rather than being oppressive toward them - v. 23)? (Alternate translation: "He doesn't have regard to those who are 'self-wise' in their hearts." Either interpretation is instructive about the type of attitude we must have.)

6. God *must* judge; he has the right to do so.

- a. God is described as a consuming fire.
Hebrews 12:28-29 - Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and (in doing this) worship God in an acceptable way, with *reverence* and awe - for our God is a consuming fire.
- b. Judgment - an aspect of God's righteousness.
Isaiah 25:3 - Therefore strong peoples will honor you; cities of ruthless nations will *revere* you (as you destroy powerful cities and protect the needy).
Rev. 15:4 - Who will not *fear* you, O Lord, ... for your righteous acts have been revealed.
- c. Judgment - an expression of God's power and might.
Exodus 14:31 - The Israelites saw the great power of the Lord (against the Egyptians), and *feared* the Lord.
- d. God has the power to judge you.
Matthew 10:28 - *Fear* him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
Luke 12:5 - This is whom you should *fear*: *Fear* him who has power to throw you into hell, after the body is killed. Yes, I tell you, *fear* him.

- e. Some general statements about God judging people.
 - Psalm 76:7-8 - You alone must be *feared*. Who can stand in your presence when you are angry? From heaven you pronounced judgment; the earth *feared* and was quiet (as you rose up to judge and to rescue the afflicted).
 - Psalm 76:12 - He breaks the spirit of rulers; the kings of the earth *fear* him.
 - Psalm 90:11 - Who understands the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the *fear* that we owe you.

7. Awareness of impending or future judgment.

- a. Awareness of impending judgment, because of one's sin (an example).
 - Genesis 3:10 - Adam (to God): I was *afraid* because I realized I was naked (because I ate from the forbidden tree).
- b. A coming judgment for all people.
 - 1 Peter 1:17 - You call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, so live your lives as temporary residents here in *reverent fear*.
 - Rev. 14:7 - The angel said with a loud voice, "*Fear* God, and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come."
- c. Fear of judgment if we respond wrongly to the offer of salvation.
 - Romans 11:20-21 - They (Jews, as a group) were broken off because of their unbelief, and you (non-Jews) stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be *afraid*. Because if God did not spare the natural branches (= the Jews), he won't spare you (= non-Jews) either.
 - Hebrews 10:26-27 - If we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth [which means we have rejected it], there is no sacrifice left that can atone for such sins. All we have to look forward to is a *fearful* anticipation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume God's enemies.

8. Specific examples of people being judged.

- a. Fear that occurred when *others* were judged (examples).
 - 2 Samuel 6:9 - David was *afraid* of the Lord that day (after Uzzah had touched the ark and instantly died).
 - 1 Chron. 13:12 - David was *afraid* of God that day (after Uzzah had touched the ark and instantly died).
 - 2 Chron. 20:29 - The *fear* of God came upon all the surrounding kingdoms when they heard how the Lord had fought against Israel's enemies.
 - Acts 5:11 - Great *fear* came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard about the death of Ananias and Sapphira. (See v. 1-10.)

- b. Fear that will (or should) occur when others are judged.
- Psalm 52:6 - The righteous will see (the judgment of the wicked) and *fear*.
 - Psalm 64:9 - All mankind will *fear* (when they see the judgment of the wicked).
 - Isaiah 59:19 - (When God pays back his enemies...) people from both east and west will *fear* the name of the Lord ... and will *fear* his glory.
 - Zeph. 3:7 - (After the people of Jerusalem saw judgment come to others...) God said, "Surely you will *fear* me and accept instruction." (Then they would not be destroyed ... but instead, they were eager to continue in their corrupt ways.)
 - Zech. 9:5 - (After seeing judgment come to others.) Ashkelon will see it and be *afraid* (etc.).
- c. Fear related to one's own judgment.
- Job 9:35 - If there were a mediator between us, I could speak and not *fear* Him; but by myself, I can't (speak without fear). [Job feared that he would receive undeserved judgment from God, and that it would continue to increase.]
 - Job 23:15 - [Job expects judgment to increase.] This is why I'm terrified of him; I'm *afraid* of him.
 - Micah 7:17 - (After judgment - v. 16.) ... They will come trembling, ... to the Lord our God they will come in dread; they will be *afraid* of you.
 - Luke 23:40 - Man on the cross to another: "Don't you *fear* God, since you are also condemned to death on a cross?"

67 Passages: Genesis 3:10; 28:17; Exodus 3:6; 14:31; 20:18, 20; Deut. 4:10; 6:1-2; 14:23; 17:19; 31:12-13; Joshua 4:23-24; 1 Samuel 12:24; 2 Samuel 6:9; 1 Kings 8:40, 43; 1 Chron. 13:12; 2 Chron. 6:31, 33; 20:29; Job 9:35; 23:15; 37:23-24; Psalm 33:8-9; 40:3; 52:6; 64:9; 65:8; 67:5-7; 76:7-8, 76:12; 86:11; 90:11; 102:15; 119:38; 130:4; Proverbs 2:5; 14:2, 16; Eccles. 3:14; Isaiah 25:3; 59:19; Jeremiah 5:22; 10:7; 32:39; Daniel 6:26; Amos 3:8; Jonah 1:15-16; Micah 7:17; Zeph. 3:7; Zech. 9:5; Malachi 1:14; 2:5; Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:5; 23:40; Acts 5:11; 7:32; 19:17; 24:25; Romans 11:20-21; Hebrews 10:26-27; 12:21, 28-29; 1 Peter 1:17; Rev. 14:7; 15:4.

THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH FEAR OF GOD

Found in 87 passages (95 verses) from our list.

Some of these passages are *statements* about people fearing God and (at the same time) doing certain other things. Some are *commands* in which several things are to be done at the same time. Whatever the nature of the statement (or command), one or more things are mentioned as occurring, existing, or required at the same time as fear of God.

This does not necessarily imply a direct cause-effect relationship between the items mentioned. (The context of each passage should be examined to determine what relationship exists.) Even so, certain things have a constant tendency to be associated with fear of God, while certain other things (normally the *opposites*) tend to *not* be associated with it. This should be instructive, and should influence our attitude toward fear of God, as well as toward the other things mentioned in the context.

In these passages, the concept of "fear" has various meanings, depending on the context. One passage may focus on a reverent fear that a follower of God will have, while another may focus on the terror that God's enemies will have. Take this into consideration when evaluating this concept. Consider this outline a worksheet that can be used to help develop one's "fear concept," rather than the final conclusion.

Since the concept of "fear" can be translated several ways (including words such as "afraid" and "reverence"), it is put in italics, where present in the verses listed below. Verses are summarized; check the Bible for a better understanding of the context.

1. AWARENESS OF GOD - his attributes and what he does.

a. Who God is / knowledge of God.

1 Kings 8:43 - ... that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and *fear* you.
2 Chron. 6:33 - ... that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and *fear* you.
Proverbs 2:5 - You will understand the *fear* of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.
Proverbs 9:10 - The *fear* of the Lord ... and knowledge of the Holy One ...

b. God's greatness (above all else).

1 Chron. 16:25 - The Lord is great and most worthy of praise; he is to be *feared* above all gods.
Psalm 89:6-8 - Who (even among the angels) can compare with the Lord? God is greatly *feared*. He is... awesome... mighty... surrounded by faithfulness.
Psalm 96:4 - The Lord is great and most worthy of praise; he is to be *feared* above all gods.

c. What God has done / his power.

Psalm 64:9 - All mankind will *fear* (when they see the judgment against the wicked); they will talk about God's works and think about what he has done.

d. God's holiness.

Isaiah 8:13 - You are to regard the Lord Almighty as holy, you are to *fear* him, you are to dread him.

- e. God's anger against sin.
Deut. 9:19 - I was *afraid* of God's anger and wrath. He was angry enough with you to destroy you.
- f. Fear of God *and* fear of his judgments/ordinances.
Psalm 119:120 - My flesh trembles in *fear* of you. I stand in *fear* of your judgments.
- g. God's blessings given to us (others will fear God).
Psalm 67:7 - God will bless us; all the ends of the earth will *fear* him.
- h. (Old Testament) God's name (presence) associated with his house (the temple).
1 Kings 8:43 - (that they may...) *fear* you ... and know that this house (temple) bears your Name.
2 Chron. 6:33 - (that they may...) *fear* you ... and know that this house (temple) bears your Name.

2. **RESPONSE toward God.**

- a. Trusting God.
Exodus 14:31 - The Israelites ... *feared* the Lord and put their trust in him.
- b. Taking refuge in God.
Psalm 31:19 - ... those who *fear* you, ... (=) those who take refuge in you.
- c. Loyalty / holding fast to God.
Deut. 10:20 - *Fear* the Lord your God ... hold fast to him.
Deut. 13:4 - You must follow and *fear* the Lord your God. ... Hold fast to him.
Acts 10:2 - Cornelius, a devout and God-*fearing* man ...
- d. Serving only God.
Deut. 6:13 - *Fear* the Lord your God, serve him only.
Deut. 10:12 - What the Lord your God asks of you: *fear* the Lord your God, ... and serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.
Deut. 10:20 - *Fear* the Lord your God and serve him.
Deut. 13:4 - You must *fear* the Lord your God. ... Serve him.
Joshua 24:14 - *Fear* the Lord and serve him with integrity and faithfulness. ... Serve the Lord.
1 Samuel 12:14 - If you *fear* the Lord and serve him ... good!
1 Samuel 12:24 - *Fear* the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart.
Psalm 2:11 - Serve the Lord with *fear*.
- e. Honor / glory / respect for God.
Isaiah 25:3 - ... peoples will honor (glorify) you; cities ... will *revere* you.
Malachi 3:16 - ...those who *feared* the Lord and had respect for his name.
Rev. 14:7 - The angel said with a loud voice, "*Fear* God, and give Him glory..."
Rev. 15:4 - Who will not *fear* you, O Lord, and glorify your name?
- f. Praying.
Acts 10:2 - Cornelius (and his household) ... who *feared* God ... and prayed to God regularly.

- g. Worship.
 - Psalm 5:7 - At your holy temple I will bow in *reverence* for you.
 - Hebrews 12:28 - Let us be thankful, and (in doing this) worship God in an acceptable way: with *reverence* and awe.
 - Rev. 14:7 - The angel said with a loud voice, "*Fear* God, ... and worship him (who created everything)."
 - Rev. 15:4 - Who will not *fear* you, O Lord ... and worship before you?
- h. Thankfulness.
 - Hebrews 12:28 - Let us be thankful, and (in doing this) worship God in an acceptable way: with *reverence* and awe.
- i. Seeking God's favor.
 - Jeremiah 26:19 - Hezekiah *feared* the Lord and sought his favor.
- j. Loving God.
 - Deut. 10:12 - What the Lord your God asks of you: *fear* the Lord your God, ... love him.
- k. Anticipating his love.
 - Psalm 33:18 - ... those who *fear* him, those whose hope is in his unfailing love.
 - Psalm 147:11 - ... those who *fear* him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love.
- l. Rejoicing in God.
 - Psalm 2:11 - Serve the Lord with *fear*; rejoice with trembling.
- m. Paying attention to what the Lord says (or does).
 - Micah 6:9 - To *fear* your name is wisdom. So listen to the Lord's call to the city: "Heed the rod (of discipline) / (heed) the One who appointed it."
- n. Trembling, dread, awe, etc. - concepts similar to "fear."
 - Jeremiah 5:22 - Should you not *fear* me? Should you not tremble in my presence?
 - Malachi 2:5 - He *revered* Me, and stood in awe of My name.
 - Philip. 2:12 - Work out your salvation with *fear* and trembling. (The power for you to do this is from God - v. 13.)
 - Hebrews 12:28 - We must worship God in an acceptable manner, with *reverence* and awe.
 - [This is just a sampling. More verses exist that contain concepts similar to "fear," but are not placed in subcategories in this outline.]

3. Response to GOD'S WORD.

- a. Obeying God's Word / walking in his ways / following him.
 - Deut. 5:29 - Oh, that they would be inclined to *fear* me and keep all my commands always!
 - Deut. 6:24 - The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to *fear* the Lord our God.
 - Deut. 8:6 - Obey the commands of the Lord your God. Walk in his ways and *fear* him.
 - Deut. 10:12 - What the Lord your God asks of you: *fear* the Lord your God, ... walk in all his ways.

Deut. 13:4 - You must follow and *fear* the Lord your God. Keep his commands and obey him.

Deut. 17:19-20 - (A leader must...) learn to *fear* the Lord his God, follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees, and not ... turn from the law to the right or to the left.

Deut. 28:58 - If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, and do not *fear* his glorious and awesome name... (there will be consequences).

Deut. 31:12 - Assemble the people so they can listen (to the law) and learn to *fear* the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words written in it.

1 Samuel 12:14 - If you *fear* the Lord and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, ... good!

2 Chron. 6:31 - ... they will *fear* you and walk in your ways.

Psalms 86:11 - I will walk in your truth... I will *fear* your name.

Psalms 103:17-18 - ... those who *fear* him ... those who keep his covenant and obey his precepts.

Psalms 111:10 - The *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

Psalms 112:1 - Blessed is the man who *fears* the Lord, and finds great delight in his commands.

Psalms 119:63 - I am a friend to everyone who *fears* you, everyone who follows your precepts.

Psalms 119:79 - ... those who *fear* you ... those who understand your decrees.

Psalms 128:1 - ... all who *fear* the Lord, ...who walk in his ways.

Isaiah 50:10 - ... those who *fear* the Lord and obey the word of his servant...

Jeremiah 44:10 - They have not ... shown *reverence*, nor followed my law and decrees.

Zeph. 3:7 - I said, "Surely you will *fear* me and accept instruction." [But they refused.]

Haggai 1:12 - (The leaders and) the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the words of Haggai the prophet... And the people *feared* the Lord.

b. Speaking God's words (the prophet's reaction).

Amos 3:8 - The lion has roared! Who will not *fear*? The Sovereign Lord has spoken!
Who can keep from prophesying?

c. Not going against God's words.

Deut. 17:19-20 - (A leader must...) learn to *fear* the Lord his God, follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees, and not ... turn from the law to the right or to the left.

1 Samuel 12:14 - If you *fear* the Lord and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, ... good!

4. Misc. things related to SALVATION and SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

a. Many passages listed in other sections of the outline could also fit here.

b. Salvation is at hand.

Psalms 85:9 - God's salvation is near to those who *fear* him. [This verse may have a focus on physical deliverance of Israel (from enemies or judgment). In this case, it is a *picture* of what spiritual salvation is all about.]

- c. "Working out" one's salvation.
Philip. 2:12 - Work out your salvation with *fear* and trembling. (The power to do this comes from God - v. 13.) [This is not the same as "working for" your salvation, in which the power would come from yourself. This is utterly impossible to accomplish!]
- d. As a group (the church): being built up, growth in numbers, etc.
Acts 9:31 - The church ... enjoyed peace and was built up. And living in the *fear* of the Lord and with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase in numbers.

5. PERSONAL CHARACTER - attitude and life.

- a. Humility.
Proverbs 22:4 - Humility and the *fear* of the Lord...
Jeremiah 44:10 - They have not humbled themselves or shown *reverence*.
Micah 7:17 - (After judgment...) They will lick the dust like a serpent. Like animals that crawl on the ground, they will come out of their hiding places, trembling. They will come in dread to the Lord our God; they will be *afraid* in your presence.
- b. Righteous living / doing what is right.
Acts 10:22 - Cornelius, a righteous and God-*fearing* man ...
Acts 10:35 - God accepts people from every nation who *fear* him and do what is right.
- c. Integrity / trustworthy / blameless / upright.
Exodus 18:21 - Men who *fear* God, trustworthy men ...
Neh. 7:2 - He was a trustworthy man and *feared* God more than most men do.
Job 1:1 - Job, a man who was blameless, upright, and who *feared* God.
Job 1:8 - Job, a man who is blameless and upright, and who *fears* God.
Job 2:3 - Job, a man who is blameless and upright, who *fears* God, ... and maintains his integrity.
- d. Sincerity of heart (a reference to pure motives).
Col. 3:22 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters ... with sincerity of heart and *reverence* for the Lord.
- e. Wisdom
Job 28:28 - The *fear* of the Lord is wisdom!
- f. Potential long life.
Deut. 6:1-2 - (Learning God's decrees/laws...) so that you, your children and grandchildren (etc.) may *fear* the Lord your God ... and so that you may enjoy long life.

6. INTERACTION with other people.

- a. Fearing those in authority.
Proverbs 24:21 - *Fear* the Lord and the king.

- b. Trusting God's leaders.
Exodus 14:31 - The Israelites ... *feared* the Lord and put their trust in ... Moses his servant.
- c. Honor and respect for others.
Leviticus 19:32 - Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly; *revere* your God.
1 Peter 2:17 - Honor all men; love the brotherhood (others who follow Christ), *fear* God, honor the king.
- d. Generous in helping others.
Acts 10:2 - Cornelius (and his household) ... *feared* God, and contributed generously to those in need...
- e. Speaking truthfully "in God's name" (i.e., because of who God is).
Deut. 6:13 - *Fear* the Lord your God, ... take your oaths in his name.
Deut. 10:20 - *Fear* the Lord your God ... take your oaths in his name.
- f. Teaching God's Word to one's children.
Deut. 4:10 - ... that they may learn to *revere* me (God) ... and may teach my words to their children.
- g. (Leaders) Considering themselves equal with the people.
Deut. 17:19-20 - (He must...) learn to *fear* the Lord his God (etc.) and not consider himself better than his brothers.
- h. (Leaders) Ruling and judging in righteousness.
2 Samuel 23:3 - He who rules righteously, who rules in the *fear* of God...
Isaiah 11:3-5 - He (the Lord's servant = Jesus) will delight in the *fear* of the Lord... and will judge with righteousness.
- i. (Others) The God-fearing person - respected by others.
Acts 10:22 - Cornelius, ... a God-*fearing* man well spoken of by the entire Jewish nation...
- j. (Others) Acknowledging God's power.
Joshua 4:24 - He dried up the Jordan ... so that all people everywhere would know his mighty power, and so that you might always *fear* the Lord your God.

7. Attitude toward SIN, EVIL, anything false.

- a. Abandoning false gods.
Joshua 24:14 - *Fear* the Lord. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River (Euphrates) and in Egypt.
- b. Opposed to sinful conduct / hating evil.
Exodus 18:21 - Men who *fear* God, ... who hate dishonest gain...
Job 1:1 - Job, a man who *feared* God and shunned evil.
Job 1:8 - Job, a man who *fears* God and shuns evil.
Job 2:3 - Job, a man who *fears* God and shuns evil.

Job 28:28 - To *fear* the Lord is wisdom; to shun evil is understanding.

Proverbs 3:7 - *Fear* the Lord and shun evil.

Proverbs 8:13 - To *fear* the Lord is to hate evil. I hate pride, arrogance, evil behavior and perverted speech.

Proverbs 14:16 - A wise man *fears* [the Lord] and shuns evil.

Proverbs 16:6 - By the *fear* of the Lord a man avoids evil.

c. NOT sinning against others.

Leviticus 19:14 - Do not curse the deaf; do not put a stumbling block in front of the blind. *Fear* your God.

Leviticus 25:17 - Do not take advantage of each other, but *fear* your God.

Leviticus 25:36 - Do not take interest of any kind from your countrymen, but *fear* your God.

Leviticus 25:43 - Do not rule over your countrymen ruthlessly, but *fear* your God. [This is a warning to masters/employers (see the context).]

d. NOT envying sinners.

Proverbs 23:17 - Don't envy sinners, but *fear* the Lord all the time.

e. NOT being "self-wise."

Proverbs 3:7 - Don't be wise in your own eyes; *fear* the Lord.

f. NOT having an arrogant attitude (over those who are unsaved).

Romans 11:20 - (Context - contrasting the Jews who were rejected to the non-Jews who were offered salvation.) They were broken off the "tree" because of their unbelief, and you stand by faith. So do not be arrogant, but be *afraid*. (God can break you off just as easily.)

g. NOT being afraid of those who can kill only the body.

Matthew 10:28 - Do not *fear* those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul. *Fear* him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 12:5 - This is whom you should *fear*: *Fear* him who has power to throw you into hell, after the body is killed. Yes, I tell you, *fear* him.

87 passages (95 verses): Exodus 14:31; 18:21; Leviticus 19:14, 32; 25:17, 36; Leviticus 25:43; Deut. 4:10; 5:29; 6:1-2, 13, 24; 8:6; 9:19; 10:12, 20; 13:4; 17:19-20; 28:58; 31:12; Joshua 4:24; 24:14; 1 Samuel 12:14, 24; 2 Samuel 23:3; 1 Kings 8:43; 1 Chron. 16:25; 2 Chron. 6:31, 33; Neh. 7:2; Job 1:1, 8; 2:3; 28:28; Psalm 2:11; 5:7; 31:19; 33:18; 64:9; 67:7; 85:9; 86:11; 89:6-8; 96:4; 103:17-18; 111:10-112:1; 119:63, 79, 120; 128:1; 147:11; Proverbs 2:5; 3:7; 8:13; 9:10; 14:16; 16:6; 22:4; 23:17; 24:21; Isaiah 8:13; 11:3-5; 25:3; 50:10; Jeremiah 5:22; 26:19; 44:10; Amos 3:8; Micah 6:9; 7:17; Zeph. 3:7; Haggai 1:12; Malachi 2:5; 3:16; Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:5; Acts 9:31; 10:2, 22, 35; Romans 11:20; Philip. 2:12; Col. 3:22; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Peter 2:17; Rev. 14:7; 15:4

RESULTS OF FEARING GOD

Found in 83 passages (92 verses) from our list.

When the fear of God is present, there is a tendency for certain things to happen. Many of these things are so wonderful, that it leaves us questioning why *anyone* would ever want to *not* fear him! It is a great shame and a horrible evil, that false teachers so often try to turn people away from the fear of God - often under the pretext that "fear of God" and "fear of punishment" are the same thing, or that "fear of God" and "love of God" are incompatible opposites! They steal from people the very blessings, love and acceptance from God that they so greatly long for!

Some of the verses listed below may have application in a specific setting; others will have application at all times. In the Old Testament, some passages may have a greater focus on the *physical* blessings which are the result of such fear, and these may have less relevance at the present time (since we are under a different covenant - Hebrews 8:7-13). Yet even those with limited application, when viewed with the rest, will help to illustrate basic principles and trends. (Comments about the issue of "blessings" are included at the end of the study, and may help in providing a better understanding of how verses about blessings apply to us today.)

Since the concept of "fear" can be translated several ways (including words such as "afraid" and "reverence"), it is put in italics, where present in the verses listed below. Verses are summarized; check the Bible (and the context of the verses) for a better understanding of their significance. Consider this outline a worksheet that can be used to help develop one's "fear concept," rather than the final conclusion.

1. God's gracious attitude toward those who fear him.

- a. Love and compassion.
 - Psalm 103:11 - As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love toward those who *fear* Him.
 - Psalm 103:13 - As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who *fear* Him.
 - Psalm 103:17-18 - The Lord's love is on those who *fear* him.
 - Psalm 118:4 - Those who *fear* the Lord should say, "His love endures forever."
- b. Mercy.
 - Luke 1:50 - His mercy is extended to all who *fear* him, from generation to generation.
- c. Delight in them.
 - Psalm 147:11 - The Lord takes pleasure in those who *fear* him.
- d. Remembering them.
 - Malachi 3:16 - The Lord listened and heard those who *feared* the Lord, when they were encouraging each other. A scroll was written in his presence to remember those who *feared* the Lord and honored his name.
- e. Accepting them.
 - Acts 10:35 - God accepts people from every nation who *fear* him and do what is right.

- f. Watching over them / help / security / deliverance from harm.
 Psalm 33:18 - The Lord watches over those who *fear* him.
 Psalm 34:7 - The angel of the Lord encamps around those who *fear* him, and he delivers them.
 Psalm 60:4 - For those who *fear* you, you have raised a banner (of war) to be unfurled against the bow (of the enemy).
 Psalm 115:11 - Those who *fear* the Lord... he is their help and shield.
 Proverbs 14:26 - He who *fears* the Lord has security and ... a refuge for his children.
 Isaiah 8:13-14 - The Lord Almighty ... is the one you are to *fear*, ... to dread; and he will be a sanctuary (place of security) to you.

2. Tangible blessings from God.

- a. Promises kept.
 Psalm 111:5 - ... for those who *fear* him, he always remembers his promise.
- b. Prayer requests heard and answered; desires fulfilled.
 Neh. 1:11 - Hear the prayer of ... your servants who delight to *revere* your name. [Fear is the basis for *expecting* God to pay attention to the prayer.]
 Psalm 145:19 - He fulfills the desires of those who *fear* him...
- c. God becomes the foundation for life (salvation, wisdom and knowledge).
 Isaiah 33:6 - The Lord will be your sure foundation ... the storehouse for salvation, wisdom and knowledge. The *fear* of the Lord is the key to this treasure.
- d. Blessings and good circumstances - *general comments*.
 Deut. 5:29 - Oh, that they would be inclined to *fear* ... so that it might go well with them and their children forever!
 1 Samuel 12:14 - If you *fear* the Lord... good!
 Psalm 31:19 - How great is your goodness. You have stored it up for those who *fear* you; you have bestowed it on them (in the sight of others).
 Psalm 34:9 - Those who *fear* him lack nothing.
 Psalm 61:5 - You have given me the heritage of those who *fear* your name.
 Psalm 112:1 - Blessed is the man who *fears* the Lord.
 Psalm 115:13 - He will bless those who *fear* the Lord, both small and great.
 Proverbs 28:14 - Blessed is the man who always *fears* [the Lord].
 Eccles. 8:12 - It will go better with God-*fearing* men, who are *reverent* before God, than with a wicked person who seems to prosper in his sin.
 Jeremiah 32:39 - ... so that they will always *fear* me, for their own good and for the good of their descendants.
- e. Blessings / prosperity / life - *specific examples*. (Note the comments about blessings at the end of this outline.)
 Exodus 1:21 - The midwives *feared* God; he gave them families of their own.
 Deut. 6:24 - (We are to...) obey these decrees and *fear* the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and our lives be preserved.
 Psalm 111:5 - He provides food for those who *fear* him.

Psalms 128:1, 4 - Blessed are all who *fear* the Lord... (Examples in v. 2-3 - blessed in all his activities and in his family...) This is how the man is blessed, who *fears* the Lord.

Proverbs 3:7-8 - *Fear* the Lord... This will bring health and vitality.

Proverbs 10:27 - The *fear* of the Lord lengthens one's life.

Proverbs 14:27 - The *fear* of the Lord is a fountain of life. It keeps a man from the snares of death.

Proverbs 19:23 - The *fear* of the Lord leads to life, secure and protected from harm.

Proverbs 22:4 - Humility and the *fear* of the Lord are the path to riches, honor and life.

f. Deserved judgment withheld.

Jeremiah 26:19 - Hezekiah *feared* the Lord and sought his favor. And the Lord ... did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them.

Zeph. 3:7 - (The people of Jerusalem, after seeing judgment come to others.) Spoken by God: I said, "Surely you will *fear* me and accept instruction." Then their dwelling would not be cut off ... [It *would* have been this way. But in this instance, they were eager to continue in their corrupt ways. So the judgment, which God didn't want them to have, *had* to come.]

g. Rewards given at the future judgment.

Rev. 11:18 - The time has come ... for rewarding ... those who *fear* your name both small and great.

3. Issues related to salvation.

a. Good news of salvation sent to those who fear God.

Acts 13:26 - This message of salvation was sent both to children of Abraham and to those among you (non-Jews) who *fear* God - all of us.

b. Salvation / deliverance by God.

Psalms 145:19 - He fulfills the desires of those who *fear* him; he hears their cry for help and saves them. (In the context, there may be a focus on deliverance from their *physical* enemies. If so, it would still be a picture or illustration of *spiritual* deliverance.)

c. Trust in / dependency on God.

Psalms 40:3 - Many will see (our expressions of praise) and *fear*, and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalms 115:11 - You who *fear* the Lord, trust in the Lord. He is their help and shield.

Isaiah 50:10 - Who *fears* the Lord and obeys his servant? Let them (who walk in darkness and need light) trust the Lord and depend upon him.

d. Repentance and confession of sin.

Acts 19:17-18 - Those who heard about it (certain miraculous events) were seized with *fear*, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. Many who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. (Example - practicing the occult, v. 19.) [Note: In the book of Acts, "believing" does not indicate a person is saved. It must be accompanied by repentance and confession of sins.]

- e. A desire for others to be saved.
2 Cor. 5:11 - Since we know what it means to *fear* the Lord, we try to persuade others (about the coming judgment - v. 10; also about Christ's love, and his death in our place, which enables us to live for him and not for ourselves - v. 14-15).

4. The God-fearing person's response toward God.

- a. Praise to God.
Psalm 22:23 - You who *fear* the Lord, praise him!
Psalm 135:20 - You who *fear* him, praise the Lord.
Rev. 19:5 - (A voice came from the throne and said...) "Praise our God, all you who serve him, you who *fear* him, both small and great!"
- b. Jesus honored and others told about him.
Acts 19:17, 20 - Those who heard about it (certain miraculous events) were seized with *fear*, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. ... The message of the Lord spread widely and with great power.
- c. Complete reverence and humility when in God's presence (aware of one's own sinfulness).
Exodus 3:6 - (God spoke to Moses from the burning bush.) Moses hid his face, because he was *afraid* to look at God.
Acts 7:32 - (God spoke to Moses from the burning bush.) Moses shook with *fear* and dared not look at him.
- d. Willing to obey God / not withholding anything from him.
Genesis 22:12 - I know that you *fear* God, because you have not withheld from me your son.
Hebrews 11:7 - Noah, in holy *fear* (and because he believed God's warning), built an ark to save his family.
- e. Vows and offerings to God - made and kept.
Psalm 76:11 - Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all ... bring gifts to the One to be *feared*.
Jonah 1:15-16 - (After throwing Jonah overboard and seeing the sea grow calm...) They greatly *feared* the Lord. They offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

5. Influence/effects on one's self and character.

- a. Learn Wisdom.
Proverbs 15:33 - The *fear* of the Lord teaches a person wisdom.
- b. Learn what the Lord has done (opportunity to hear about God's wonders).
Psalm 66:16 - All you who *fear* God - let me tell you what he has done for me.

- c. Understand how to live. (The main focus here is probably on moral issues; but there would be implications for *all* areas of life.)
 - Psalm 25:12 - The man that *fears* the Lord... He (God) will instruct him in the way he should go.
 - Psalm 25:14 - The counsel of the Lord is given to those who *fear* him; and he will reveal to them (the meaning of) his covenant.
- d. Becoming holy and pure.
 - 2 Cor. 7:1 - Since we have these promises (about God living among us), we must cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit. (This is how) we must grow our holiness to maturity, in the *fear* of God.
- e. Avoiding extremes.
 - Eccles. 7:18 - The man who *fears* God will avoid both extremes. (He will avoid both wickedness and self-righteousness.)
- f. Qualified for leading / advising (if other necessary qualifications are also present).
 - Exodus 18:21 - Select capable men - men who *fear* God - and appoint them as officials.
 - Ezra 10:3 - Let us make a covenant before our God ... in accordance with the counsel of ... those who *fear* the commands of our God.
- g. Able to avoid the reproach/ridicule which would be caused by the *opposite* way of life.
 - Neh. 5:9 - Shouldn't you walk in the *fear* of our God to avoid the reproach of our enemies?
- h. NOT choosing to sin.
 - Exodus 20:20 - ... the *fear* of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.
- i. NOT willing to obey other people's commands to sin.
 - Exodus 1:17 - The midwives *feared* God and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded. (He wanted them to kill the baby boys.)

6. Interacting with others.

- a. Making choices that promote life.
 - Genesis 42:18 - Joseph said to them, "*I fear* God, so do this and you will live..." (Context - Joseph wanted to see his brother, but wasn't yet ready to let them know who he was.)
 - Exodus 1:17 - The midwives *feared* God and ... they let the boys live.
 - Exodus 9:20 - Those ... who *feared* the word of the Lord hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside (to spare them from the disaster that was about to come).
- b. Encouraging each other.
 - Malachi 3:16 - Those who *feared* the Lord spoke to one another...
- c. Promises/vows (to God) kept in their presence.
 - Psalm 22:25 - I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who *fear* you.

- d. Associating with and rejoicing in others who follow God.
 Psalm 119:74 - Those who *fear* you will rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.
 Psalm 119:79 - May those who *fear* you turn to me, those who understand your decrees.
- e. Honored / befriended by those who love God.
 Psalm 15:4 - (The person who wants to be in God's presence) ...honors those who *fear* the Lord.
 Psalm 119:63 - I am a friend to everyone who *fears* you, everyone who follows your precepts.
 Proverbs 31:30 - A woman who *fears* the Lord should be praised.
- f. Submitting / obeying, as appropriate.
 Ephes. 5:21 - Submit to one another out of *reverence* for Christ. [Three specific ways are mentioned in the context that follows.]
 Col. 3:22 - Slaves, always obey your earthly masters - not only when they are watching you so that you can win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and *reverence* for the Lord. ["Always" obeying does not include any command to do something sinful, for obedience to God comes first.]
- g. Considering the rejection of God to be sheer folly.
 Psalm 52:6 - The righteous will see (the judgment experienced by such a foolish person) and *fear*; and will laugh at him (for rejecting God and trusting in himself).
- h. (Leaders) Judging and leading carefully (and the consequences of doing so).
 2 Samuel 23:3-4 - He who rules in the *fear* of God, is like the (refreshing) light of the morning.
 2 Chron. 19:7 - Let the *fear* of the Lord be upon you. Judge carefully (because there is no injustice or partiality or bribery with God).
 2 Chron. 19:9 - You must serve in the *fear* of the Lord, faithfully and wholeheartedly.
 Neh. 5:15 - Out of *reverence* for God I did not lord over the people (extorting money from them).
- i. (On a national level) Peace / lack of war.
 2 Chron. 17:10 - The *fear* of the Lord fell on all the surrounding kingdoms, so that they did not go to war against Jehoshaphat.
 2 Chron. 20:29 - The *fear* of God came upon all the surrounding kingdoms (so there was peace).

7. Misc. unsorted results.

- a. (Old Testament) About the King - he will have descendants on the throne.
 Deut. 17:19-20 - (He must...) learn to *fear* the Lord his God (etc.) ...Then he and his descendants will rule a long time over Israel.
- b. (Prophecy) Healing strength, restoration (referring to the outcome of the Day of Judgment).
 Malachi 4:2 - For you who *fear* my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and skip about like calves released from the stall. (In contrast, the wicked will perish - v. 1.)

- c. Trying to hide from God (an example).
Genesis 3:10 - I was *afraid* ... so I hid. (Context: They had sinned and were awaiting judgment, which they knew they deserved. This "fear" is different from the type found in most of the other passages in this outline.)

8. Comments about blessings (a note about Section 2).

- a. Note the context of the verses. Under the New Testament covenant, there may be a lesser emphasis on the present *physical* blessings (though at times such blessings may still exist).
- b. The follower of Jesus and the merely religious "church-goers" will often view blessings in *opposite* ways. The "church-goer" will often be focused on himself and his enjoyment of blessings, and on how he can get more blessings and enjoy them further. In contrast, the follower of Jesus will be focused on how he can love God and neighbor, whether or not the blessings are present.
- c. Blessings are *not* a guarantee of God's approval. In this present life, wicked people sometimes *do* experience blessings:
 - (a) Mere external obedience to God may result in some blessings, even though the obedience may not be a genuine expression of the person's heart.
 - (b) The blessings received by those who *do* fear God may benefit others around them who *don't* fear God.
 - (c) Injustice may result in temporary blessings for the wicked; but they will lose them in the end, and face a greater judgment than if they had not had them.
- d. Not all blessings are immediately received. In fact, some may not be received (at least in their fullness) until the Day of Justice.
- e. Many blessings (especially those we call "spiritual blessings") are not dependent on circumstances, and can exist even when circumstances are unpleasant. Come what may, those who fear God *are* blessed. (This is why scripture can tell us to *rejoice* when we are going through trials. Example - James 1:2.)
- f. Many of the passages in this study focus on the *normal tendency* that will occur when fear of God is present. Yet we also find passages which tell us that injustice in the world sometimes keeps physical blessings from occurring. (Look at Job's example, or at Asaph - Psalm 73.) We need to remember this, and (if applicable), look forward to the future Day of Justice, when all will be made right.

83 passages (92 verses): Genesis 3:10; 22:12; 42:18; Exodus 1:17, 21; 3:6; 9:20; 18:21; 20:20; Deut. 5:29; 6:24; 17:19-20; 1 Samuel 12:14; 2 Samuel 23:3-4; 2 Chron. 17:10; 19:7, 9; 20:29; Neh. 1:11; 5:9, 15; Psalm 15:4; 22:23, 25; Psalm 25:12, 14; 31:19; 33:18; 34:7, 9; 40:3; 52:6; 60:4; 61:5; 66:16; 76:11; 103:11, 13, 17-18; 111:5; 112:1; 115:11, 13; 118:4; 119:63, 74, 79; 128:1, 4; 135:20; 145:19; 147:11; Proverbs 3:7-8; 10:27; 14:26-27; 15:33; 19:23; 22:4; 28:14; 31:30; Eccles. 7:18; 8:12; Isaiah 8:13-14; 33:6; 50:10; Jeremiah 26:19; 32:39; Jonah 1:15-16; Zeph. 3:7; Malachi 3:16; 4:2; Luke 1:50; Acts 7:32; 10:35; 13:26; 19:17-18, 20; 2 Cor. 5:11; 7:1; Ephes. 5:21; Col. 3:22; Hebrews 11:7; Rev. 11:18; 19:5.