

Theme: The gate to the way of wisdom is the fear of the Lord – a proper reverence and awe for our great God.

I. Intro – Is He Safe?

- A. Chronicles – Is He safe?
- B. Of course not – but He is good!
- C. What is the fear of the Lord?
- D. Is fear of the Lord applicable today?

II. Theme: Fear of Lord Beginning of Wisdom

- A. Theme of Proverbs – fear of Lord & wisdom
 - 1. Knowledge & wisdom synonyms in v7
 - a. All synonyms in 1:1-7 (vvs; circle drawing)
 - b. Parallelism – knowledge, wisdom, discipline
 - 2. Stated directly in 9:10
- B. Key theme for Wisdom literature
 - 1. Proverbs (1:7; 9:10; 31:30)
 - 2. Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Eccl 12:13

III. Understanding The Fear of the Lord

- A. God's people are those who fear Him
 - 1. God's people fear him - Ps 22:23

- 2. Jesus delights in fear of Lord – Is 11:1-3
- 3. Unregenerate do not fear God – Rom 3:18

B. Aspects of the Fear of the Lord

- 1. Trembling awe – Jer 5:22; Heb 12:28-29
- 2. Not shrinking fear – Ex 20:20; 1John 4:17-18
- 3. Desire to obey God – Dt 6:1-2
- 4. Rejection of evil – Pro 8:13

C. The fear of the Lord & blessing (Ps 112; 128)

- 1. Fear of Lord leads to wisdom – blessing!
- 2. Ps 112 – acrostic of blessing
- 3. Ps 128 – The blessed life

IV. Conclusion & Summary

A. The fear of the Lord & wisdom literature

- 1. Central to understanding Proverbs (& rest)
- 2. Not just practical tidbits – fear of Lord in practice

B. Do we fear the Lord (emotionally)?

- 1. Do we have a proper sense of reverential awe?
- 2. Are we too familiar with God? – cultural trend

3. Are we terrified or guilty? – this is not fear of Lord

C. Do we fear the Lord (practically)?

1. Am I growing in my desire to obey God?

2. Am I growing in holiness/hating sin? (think of sins)

a. Think of specific sins (gossip, porn, language)

b. What fences do I erect to protect me? None = Love sin

3. Am I growing in practical wisdom? (money, family, labor, etc.)

a. Fear of Lord causes practical lifestyle changes

b. Fear of Lord makes my life look like the wise in Proverbs

The Gate to the Way of Wisdom - The Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 1:7

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How Great is Our God OR I Bow Down

Psalm 115:12-15 paraphrase

"Ooh!" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he--quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, and make no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver, "if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about being safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30

And he said to man, 'The fear of the Lord-- that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.' Job 28:28

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.. Ps 111:10

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Eccl 12:13

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! Psalm 22:23

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1-3

"There is no fear of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18

"Should you not fear me?" declares the LORD. "Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it. Jeremiah 5:22

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire." Heb 12:28-29

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." Exodus 20:18-20

In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1Jo 4:17-18

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Deut 6:1-2

To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Proverbs 8:13

Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. Psalm 112:1

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. Psalm 128:1

The LORD remembers us and will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron, he will bless those who fear the LORD-- small and great alike. May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children. May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 115:12-15