

Episode #633 The Why Question 18: Why Fear? Old Testament

I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.

II. One of the sad situations we face in this world is the reality of terror and fear. Fear of a virus that so far has not been nearly as bad as predicted caused many people to willingly give up their jobs and businesses and freedoms and hide in their homes. Why do we face fear in this world? Today we will examine this issue from the Old Testament.

III. The Fear of God.

- A. Genesis 2:16-17. In the beginning there was no need for fear, for there was no knowledge of good and evil.
- B. Genesis 3:10. The first time we read of fear. This happened because Adam had sinned against God. All fear has been as an outcome of this!
- C. Genesis 26:24. Isaac had no reason to fear with God with him. A lesson for us!
- D. Genesis 31:53. God is our true and rightful fear.
- E. Exodus 3:6. Moses was afraid to look at God!
- F. Exodus 18:21. God sought men who feared Him by doing right! The wicked, on the other hand, have no fear of God, Psalm 36:1
- G. Psalm 64:9. All men will yet fear God when His kingdom begins.
- H. Proverbs 9:10. Ultimately, to fear the LORD is to be wise.
- I. Isaiah 57:11. Because God is silent people do not fear Him!

IV. Fear and Enemies.

- A. Exodus 23:27. As Israel entered the land, God promised His fear would cause their enemies to flee.
- B. Numbers 14:9. There was no reason for them to fear their enemies when the Lord was with them to cause their defeat.
- C. Judges 7:3. Gideon sent home all in the army who were afraid.
- D. I Samuel 17:11, 24. The people were afraid of Goliath. David was not, however, for he remembered that God was with him!
- E. II Kings 6:16. To have God with us is to overpower our enemies.
- F. Ezra 3:3. When they feared their enemies, they sought the Lord. A good policy!
- G. Psalm 3:6. With the Lord on your side, why fear ten thousands of people?

V. Things to Fear.

- A. Numbers 12:8. Miriam and Aaron ought to have been afraid to speak against Moses!
- B. Deuteronomy 13:11. Judicial punishment of wickedness (the death penalty) causes others to fear and not do the same.
- C. Deuteronomy 28:60. They were afraid of diseases.
- D. Deuteronomy 28:66-67. Disobeying God would result in constant fear.
- E. Joshua 22:24-25. They feared their children turning from the LORD!
- F. I Samuel 18:12, 15, 29. Saul was afraid of David because God was with him and had left Saul.
- G. II Samuel 1:14. How can one not be afraid to act against Jehovah’s anointed?
- H. Psalm 9:20. The nations fear because they are only men.
- I. Psalm 18:4. Floods of ungodliness made the psalmist afraid.
- J. Psalm 53:5. The wicked fear when there is no fear.

- K. Psalm 55:4-5. The psalmist greatly fears death.
- L. Psalm 76:8. The earth fears when God brings judgment in His kingdom.
- M. Psalm 83:15. A storm causes fear.
- N. Proverbs 14:16. A wise man fears evil.
- O. Isaiah 2:19. The glory of the LORD brings terror on the wicked!
- P. Isaiah 66:4. Their fears come on them because they did not listen when He called.
- Q. Ezekiel 21:12. The sword (violence) brings terror.
- R. Daniel 8:17. Daniel is afraid of a vision of the distant future.
- S. Daniel 10:7. The presence of God's messenger caused Daniel's companions to fear.

VI. Things Not to Fear.

- A. Deuteronomy 18:22. Do not be afraid of prophets whose words do not happen. This happened to Nehemiah, Nehemiah 6:13-14.
- B. Judges 6:27. Gideon feared to serve God in the open, so he did it at night.
- C. I Samuel 12:20. Do not fear your past sins if you serve the Lord with all your heart.
- D. Proverbs 29:25. To fear men is a trap. Compared to God, why be afraid of men who will die, Isaiah 51:12?
- E. Jeremiah 10:5. There is no reason to be afraid of false gods!

VII. With God There is No Need to Fear.

- A. Psalm 23:4. David fears no evil for Yahweh is with him!
- B. Psalm 27:1-3. Whom shall I fear with the LORD as my salvation?
- C. Psalm 56:3. Trust in God whenever you are afraid!
- D. Isaiah 41:10. Fear not, for God is with you!
- E. Ezekiel 34:28. When God restores Israel, no one shall make them afraid!

VIII. Conclusion: In the beginning, God made us not to know fear for we were to have no experience of calamity. When Adam sinned, however, he learned fear when he was afraid of God, the One Who sought to spare him from fear! We truly ought to fear God in respecting and reverencing Him and seeking His ways. We need not fear our enemies with Him with us, however. There are things that do make us afraid, and some of them ought to. There are things we need not fear, however, and should not. Ultimately, with God on our side, there is no need for ultimate fear, since we have ultimate hope in His salvation. Let us trust God and overcome all fear!