

Fear

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Recorded on October 6, 2023

I saw a political cartoon and in this cartoon two tigers were depicted lying down, relaxing, one beside the other. One tiger turned to his buddy and said,

“Larry, I learned something about people. We have all these liberals and conservatives and democrats, and all these republicans and they live in republics, in communist countries, they live in dictatorships and they learn in countries that are ruled by monarchs. Within these countries there are all sorts of people of every color.”

He said to his tiger friend,

“You know they have people living in these countries that are LGBTQ, they have heterosexuals; they marry, they’re single, they have Christians in these communities and in these places in the world. They have Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Druids, Agnostics, Atheists and they have Hindus and all sorts of other religions. You know what Larry? They all taste like chicken.”

You know a tiger is not going to discern from one chicken to another. But the subject for today includes the fact that God does discern between all of these people on the planet.

The subject today is:

Fear

Just for a reference to begin, to have a starting place, let’s turn to Deuteronomy 14:22.

Deuteronomy 14:22 *You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.*

23) And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. (NKJV)

We’re going to look at different aspects of *fear* today—four different aspects. All the while, keeping in mind that God distinguishes between those who fear God and those who do not. We’re going to look at *fear* and *terror*; we will look at the *fearful* and we will look at those who do not fear God. Finally, we will look at those who do fear God. Fear and terror are common to everybody; it happens to us all. It isn’t necessarily healthy but it’s a natural, innate reaction in human beings.

In the world, we went through 9/11 and the people who jumped from those Towers had *fear* and a lot of it. They were desperate and hopeless and did what they did. It's incredibly sad that people have to experience that kind of terror. They experience it in the wars of the world, they experience it in the starvation of the world. The hopeless despair of oppression by all kinds of evil rulers and dictators who think they have the right to rule over other people and kill and destroy them at will or leave them destitute and homeless and without food and care. We see it all around us.

Last week a little girl in New York was out riding her bicycle with her friends and she was stolen by a monster and carted away and stuck in a cabinet. When that happened, I did something kind of unusual. I got so mad because it happens all the time. I just prayed to God that He would send some angels and take care of this guy. As it happened, they roughed him up a little bit but they got the little girl back. Can you imagine the fear of that mother and father with that cute little girl taken off her bicycle and carted away. They had no idea it was going to happen to her. It has happened so often in the history of our country and in the present, perverted dark times. The sex trade and all that goes on in the world—it's horrific. I can't imagine what the parents of that little girl—and the girl herself—went through. This is in the world—fear and terror.

It also happened among the disciples and some of those people who feared God. Let's just look at a few examples of "fear" and "terror" within scripture. Just a few examples of situations that happened that made people tremble and shake in fear.

Luke 24:36 *Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." [That's not scary]
37) But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.*
(NKJV)

So, with something supernatural like that, it seems normal that people might be afraid and shocked and terrified—a natural reaction. These weren't wicked people; these were Jesus Christ's own disciples who He was with for His lifetime. Another example, something similar to this is Matthew 14:22. This is about Jesus talking to the crowd and then sent His disciples away.

Matthew 14:22 *Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.
23) And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.
24) But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.
25) Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.
26) And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.
27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."* (NKJV)

Just a natural reaction to something they had never seen before. It seemed pretty incredible and out there, if you will. Another thing along this line is Matthew 17:1-7.

Matthew 17:1 *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves*
2) *and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. [So far so good, they weren't scared of this]*
3) *And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*
4) *Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." [Still not shocked, still not afraid]*
5) *While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*
6) *And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. (NKJV)*

God the Father speaking to anyone, appearing, doing what God the Father does in His power and majesty—a natural reaction for those disciples. Let's look a little more into this in Hebrews 12. This is about Moses who had been accustomed to talking to God, face to face.

Hebrews 12:18 *For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest,*
19) *and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.*
20) *(For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.")*
21) *And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") (NKJV)*

Moses had been through similar things like this before, but now he's trembling. We see a little bit more of that example in Exodus 19:16.

Exodus 19:16 *Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.*
17) *And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.*
18) *Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.*
19) *And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.*

- 20) *Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.*
- 21) *And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish. (NKJV)*

This was the fearful sight that Moses trembled at. Daniel, servant of the Most High the angel came to see him when he first started to pray. He was familiar with God; he was familiar with the power of God. He had visions and God helped him with Nebuchadnezzar and his visions. He was promoted within the throne, in the kingdom of Babylon. Let's go to Daniel 5 and see a couple of instances of Daniel's experience with the supernatural, with the force, the power of an angel. This is about Belshazzar and his abuse of the articles of the Temple.

Daniel 5:3 *Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.*

4) *They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.*

5) *In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.*

6) *Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.*

Terror— this is a wicked guy, it's not Daniel. We'll cover Daniel next. He saw something that as far as he was concerned, was something spiritual. Something with tremendous power. Daniel 10:4-12.

Daniel 10:4 *Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris,*

5) *I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!*

6) *His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.*

7) *And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.*

8) *Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength.*

9) *Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.*

10) *Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.*

11) *And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. (NKJV)*

A man of God, Daniel and this was a reaction to seeing something great and powerful, and how it affected him. That's just the natural human tendency to react to something incredible. The "fearful" is a whole other world. There is no future in being fearful in the scriptures we'll read. It involves things that are not of God. We'll see that in Matthew 25. These things too are a matter of judgment—not ours—God's.

Matthew 25:24 *Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.*

25) *And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'*

26) *But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.*

27) *So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.*

28) *So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.*

29) *For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.*

30) *And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'* (NKJV)

"Fear" like this is without a future. Revelation 21 talks very briefly about this kind of fear. Basically, it talks about it in one word. This has been covered already this Feast. The *cowardly* are mentioned with all of these other sins.

Revelation 21:8 *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."* (NKJV)

I'm not going to spend much more time on this, but to be *fearful and cowardly*— there is no future in it. This is something that can't be with God in His Kingdom. Being *fearful* and *cowardly* is kind of useless. Let's go to Romans 8:15

Romans 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

16) *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,(NKJV)*

1 John 4:18, talks about similar things, beginning in verse 17.

1 John 4:17 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*
18) *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (NKJV)*

2 Timothy 1:7—one final scripture on this section.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (NKJV)*

Let's now move on to the third element and that is those who do not fear God.

Most of the world doesn't fear God. Most of it is probably in ignorance, but there are those recorded in scripture who don't fear God and it's more of a deliberate thing. Why should anybody fear God to begin with? Because He made us, His awesome power, His eternity, His sovereign authority over everything and because He gave us everything. Jesus Christ gave us everything. To not fear God, realizing the magnitude of what He has given us, is an affront to God. We can see this in some of the scriptures we're going to read. Let's begin with Numbers 13. It's talking about the spies sent out to look at the land and who came back and gave the report. God makes a distinction between those who fear Him and those were fearful.

Numbers 13:26 *Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.*

27) *Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.*

28) *Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.*

29) *The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."*

30) *Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."*

31) *But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."*

32) *And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.*

33) *There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."*
(NKJV)

Numbers 14:1 *So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.*

2) *And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!*

3) *Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"*

4) *So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."*

5) *Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.*

6) *But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes;*

7) *and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land.*

8) *If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey.'*

9) *Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."*

10) *And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.*

(NKJV)

They were about to get a big plague dumped on them for their rebellion, for their fearful attitude and for their hatred of the leadership they had through Moses and Aaron. We'll see in verse 36-38 the end result of that.

36) *Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land,*
37) *those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the LORD.*

38) *But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land. (NKJV)*

God made a distinction between those who did evil, who did not fear and those who were fearful and did not fear God. Let's look at Romans 3:10. It is a good example of those who do not fear God and what that looks like.

Romans 3:10 *As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.*

11) *There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.*

12) *They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."*

13) *Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips";*

- 14) *"Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."*
- 15) *Their feet are swift to shed blood;*
- 16) *Destruction and misery are in their ways;*
- 17) *And the way of peace they have not known."*
- 18) *"There is no fear of God before their eyes." (NKJV)*

There is no future in this. There is no future at all in having no fear of God. Let's look at Psalms 36:1-4.

Psalms 36:1 *An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked:*

There is no fear of God before his eyes.

2) *For he flatters himself in his own eyes, When he finds out his iniquity and when he hates.*

3) *The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good.*

4) *He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way that is not good; He does not abhor evil. (NKJV)*

There is no future, not in any of this in not abhorring evil. Another thing we can look at in this section is in Deuteronomy 7:9, for those who do not fear God.

Deuteronomy 7:9 *Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

10) *and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. (NKJV)*

Tough words—no future. Final scripture in this category, Malachi 3:5.

Malachi 3:5 *And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien— Because they do not fear Me," Says the LORD of hosts. (NKJV)*

There is no future in not fearing God and *it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*. So far, it's been pretty negative. But those who fear God, they have a future. The future is eternal and fearing God has benefits for all eternity and for all who fear Him. So, what does it look like to fear God? We know what it looks like not to fear, but what does it look like to fear God? It does look like fear and terror at times, trembling and knocking of knees and shaking. But it also includes to stand in awe of God. To revere, honor and respect and especially to heed and obey and above all, to love Him. That is the fear of God and we'll see the benefits of having all these fears, feelings, honors and respect for the mighty God. Let's begin in Deuteronomy 10 and we'll get a good idea of the fear of the LORD and the benefits.

Deuteronomy 10:12 *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*

13) *and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?*

14) *Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.*

15) *The LORD delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.*

16) *Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.*

17) *For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.*

18) *He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.*

19) *Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

20) *You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name. (NKJV)*

Covering more of the same in obedience to God and what God requires, what the fear of God looks like in Deuteronomy 5:29 and we'll go on to chapter 6 as well.

Deuteronomy 5:29 *Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!*

30) *Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."*

31) *But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.'*

32) *"Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.*

33) *You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess. (NKJV)*

Deuteronomy 6:1 *"Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,*

2) *that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.*

3) *Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—a land flowing with milk and honey.'*

4) *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*

- 5) *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*
6) *And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. (NKJV)*

Let's go to 1 Samuel 12:22.

- 1 Samuel 12:22** *For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.*
23) *Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.*
24) *Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.*
25) *But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.” (NKJV)*

God makes a distinction between people who fear Him, who obey Him and those who do not and that relationship continued with Israel throughout their entire existence. Let's look at Psalms 33:8-12.

- Psalms 33:8** *Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.*
9) *For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*
10) *The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.*
11) *The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.*
12) *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.(NKJV)*

Psalms 34:18-23.

- 18) *The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.*
19) *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.*
20) *He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.*
21) *Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.*
22) *The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned. And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned. (NKJV)*

God again makes a distinction between those who fear Him and those who do not. Let's look at Psalms 128:1-4.

Psalms 128:1 *Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.*

2) *When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.*

3) *our wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.*

4) *Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD. (NKJV)*

Let's go to Psalms 103 and continue reading in this genre of fearing the LORD and reaping the benefits of fearing the LORD.

Psalms 103:11 *For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;*

12) *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

13) *As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.*

14) *For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*

15) *As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.*

16) *For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more.*

17) *But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,*

18) *To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them. (NKJV)*

Let's go to Psalms 111:1.

Psalms 111:1 *Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.*

2) *The works of the LORD are great, Studied by all who have pleasure in them.*

3) *His work is honorable and glorious, And His righteousness endures forever.*

Psalms 112:1 *Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments.*

2) *His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.*

3) *Wealth and riches will be in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.*

4) *Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.*

5) *A good man deals graciously and lends; He will guide his affairs with discretion.*

6) *Surely he will never be shaken; The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. (NKJV)*

Proverbs 14:26 *In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.*

27) *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death. (NKJV)*

In chapter 16:6-7 of Proverbs.

Proverbs 16:6 *In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.*

7) *When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. (NKJV)*

Let's go to the New Testament and read more in Philippians 2 and 1Peter 1.

Philippians 2:12 *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*

13) *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (NKJV)*

1 Peter 1:15 *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,*

16) *because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

17) *And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;*

18) *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,*

19) *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

20) *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*

21) *who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (NKJV)*

Two more scriptures in this category, simplified in Ecclesiastes 3.

Ecclesiastes 3:14 *I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever.*

Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.

Ecclesiastes 12:12 *And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.*

13) *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.*

14) *For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil. (NKJV)*

More distinctions between good and evil, between fearing God and not fearing God. We have a number of scriptures to go yet but this is the conclusion. The whole point of everything when we read it, is that there are eternal benefits to fearing God, to obeying God, to trembling at His word and God does make a very plain and clear distinction between those who fear Him and those who do not. Let's look at a few more scriptures. 1 Peter 3:10.

1 Peter 3:10 *For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.*

11) Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

12) For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil." (NKJV)

A very clear distinction and we'll see more of this as we go on in the next few scriptures we're going to read.

Psalms 37:25 *I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.*

26) He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed.

27) Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore.

28) For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.

29) The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever. (NKJV)

A clear benefit and distinction between those who do fear God and those who do not.

2 Corinthians 6:16 *And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."*

17) Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

18) I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.* (NKJV)

Just a few more scriptures. The future—this distinction is even more clear in Malachi 3. The distinction between those who serve God, who fear God and those who do not.

Malachi 3:16 *Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.*

17) They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."

*18) Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked,
Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him. (NKJV)*

Let's go to Psalms 22:23-31.

Psalms 22:23 *You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!*

24) For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard.

25) My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

26) The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

27) All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.

28) For the kingdom is the LORD's, And He rules over the nations.

29) All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive.

30) A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,

31) They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this. (NKJV)

Isaiah 11:1-10. A time is coming; a time of refreshing, a time of change, a time when it will be more than just a few who will fear God.

Isaiah 11:1 *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*

2) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

3) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

5) Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

6) "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.

7) The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8) The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

9) *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.*

10) *And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.” (NKJV)*

Let's conclude with one final scripture, Isaiah 40:9-11 and 28-31.

Isaiah 40:9 *O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”*

10) *Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.*

11) *He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young. (NKJV)*

Continuing in verse 28)

28) *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.*

29) *He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.*

30) *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,*

31) *But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (NKJV)*