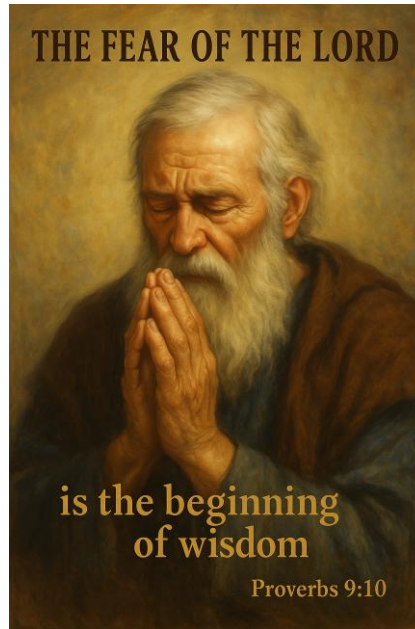


The Fear of YHWH



*He stands, not in terror, but in reverent awe
—before the Voice that formed the world*

**Written by Rex
For the Awakening Remnant**

**Walking the Ancient Path of Obedience
Calling out Deception – Calling out Truth**

*Blessed is the one who fears YHWH, who walks in His Ways.
(Tehillim / Psalm 128:1)*

As Roots Nourish the Tree ~ So Torah Nourishes the Soul

The Fear of YHWH

Introduction

All my life I have heard "fear the LORD" I always have thought it meant reverence, and it does but until I read that scripture that tells me just what it is, Pro. 8:13. It like hit me like bingo now I understand what fearing the Lord is all about. It literally means to love what He loves and hate what He hates.

The truth is that Proverbs 8:13 indeed clarifies that "*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.*" This verse emphasizes that fearing the LORD involves aligning our values with His—loving what He loves and hating what He hates. It's about having a deep reverence and respect for God that shapes our attitudes and actions.

Hebrew is a concrete language, and finding a single English word that fully captures the nuance and essence of יָרָא (yare') can be challenging. However, a combination of words might better convey its full meaning. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Reverence:** This word captures the deep respect and awe aspect of יָרָא.
- **Awe:** This word emphasizes the wonder and profound respect for God's greatness.
- **Devotion:** This word highlights the commitment and alignment with God's values.
- **Respect:** This word conveys the honor and esteem aspect.
- **Veneration:** This word combines respect, reverence, and awe.

Using these words together can help convey the full depth of the Hebrew concept. For example, "reverent awe" or "devout reverence" might come closer to capturing the essence of יָרָא.

Finding the right words to capture the essence of "fear of the LORD" can be challenging. Here are a few alternative phrases that might resonate better:

- Profound respect
- Deep veneration
- Sacred reverence
- Holy awe
- Spiritual reverence

These phrases aim to convey the deep respect, admiration, and awe that the original Hebrew words encompass.

The concept of "fear of the LORD" in Hebrew is indeed rich and multifaceted, and it can be challenging to capture its full essence in English. The Hebrew words יָרֵא (yare') and יִרְאָה (yir'ah) encompass a range of meanings, including fear, reverence, awe, and respect.

In modern English, we might use a combination of words to convey this depth. For example, "reverent awe" or "devout reverence" might come closer to capturing the full meaning. It's about having a profound respect and admiration for God's greatness, holiness, and authority, and aligning our lives with His will. The following verse highlights what "fear" really means:

It is the Beginning of Knowledge

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Pro. 1:7)

It is the of Wisdom

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

Those who Follow His Precepts Have Good Understanding

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. (Ps. 111:10)

These verses emphasize the importance of reverence for God as the foundation of wisdom and knowledge.

It's to Hate Evil, Pride, Arrogance, Evil Way, and Perverse Mouth

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate. (Pro. 8:13)

It Prolongs One's Days

The fear of the LORD prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened. (Pro. 10:27)

There is Strong Confidence

In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. (Pro. 14:26)

It is a Fountain of Life

The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death. (Pro. 14:27)

These verses highlight different aspects of what it means to fear the LORD, from hating evil to finding refuge and life.

Yirah and **Yare** are Hebrew words that often appear in religious texts, particularly in the context of the Hebrew Bible. They both relate to the concept of fear, but they carry different nuances and implications.

Yirah (יִרָא)

Yirah is often translated as "fear," but it encompasses a broader range of meanings, including awe, reverence, and respect. In a religious context, *yirah* is the kind of fear that one might feel in the presence of something immensely powerful and holy. It's not just about being scared; it's about recognizing the greatness and majesty of God. This type of fear leads to a deep sense of respect and a desire to follow God's Commandments.

Yare (יָרֵא)

Yare is a verb that means "to fear" or "to be afraid." It can refer to the fear of God, similar to *yirah*, but it is also used in more general contexts to describe fear of other things, such as enemies, danger, or the unknown. While *yare* can imply a more immediate, visceral fear, it can also carry the connotation of reverence and respect, depending on the context.

Differences and Similarities

- **Contextual Use:** *Yirah* is more often used in a religious or spiritual context to denote reverence and awe, while *yare* can be used in both religious and secular contexts.

- **Emotional Nuance:** *Yirah* carries a sense of awe and respect, whereas *yare* can imply a broader range of fear, from terror to reverence.
- **Verb vs. Noun:** *Yare* is primarily a verb, while *yirah* is a noun.

In summary, Pro. 8:13 indeed provides a deeper understanding of what it means to "fear the LORD." The verse states: "*To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.*" This highlights that fearing the LORD involves aligning our values with His—loving what He loves and hating what He hates.

It's a powerful reminder that true reverence for God goes beyond mere respect; it involves a commitment to living according to His principles and values.

Conclusion

To fear YHWH is not to flinch in terror, but to stand in trembling awe—gripped by the weight of His glory, pierced by the call to holiness. It is to hate every crooked path because He hates it, and to chase righteousness not for reward, but because He is worthy. The fear of YHWH is not weakness—it is wisdom, power, protection, and life. It is the foundation upon which every true step of obedience is built. Until we fear Him rightly, we cannot walk rightly. And until we hate what He hates, we will never fully love what He loves.

Questions to Ponder

Do I truly hate what YHWH hates?

Answer → To hate what YHWH hates is to turn away from it not only in public but in private, not only in theory but in action. If I still feed on what He calls abomination, then my “hate” is shallow. True hatred of evil means separation, even when it costs me comfort or reputation.

Or do I merely dislike sin in theory, while tolerating it in practice—especially in entertainment, speech, or habits?

Answer → If I can laugh at what YHWH condemns or excuse in myself what I condemn in others, then I tolerate what He despises. Dislike without rejection is not holiness — it is lukewarmness.

Is my fear of YHWH based on awe and reverence, or is it diluted by modern comfort and casual faith?

Answer → The fear of YHWH cannot live comfortably beside apathy. If my faith feels casual, it may not be fear at all but convenience. True fear shakes me from slumber and reminds me that I stand before the Holy One, clothed in His mercy yet accountable to His justice.

Have I lost the trembling awareness of His holiness?

Answer → If I can speak His Name lightly, treat His Word as common, or enter Shabbat as just another day, then I have lost that trembling. Holiness demands awe. If there is no awe, my heart has grown dull.

When was the last time I felt holy awe in His presence?

Answer → Awe is not always thunder and fire; sometimes it is silence that stills the soul, a weight that bends the knees. If I cannot remember such a moment, then I have wandered from the mountain and need to return.

Do I treat sacred moments, sacred words, and sacred space as holy—or have they become familiar and routine?

Answer → Familiarity can harden the heart. What is holy must always remain set apart. If I treat Torah like just another book, or prayer like empty habit, I have profaned what He sanctified.

Do I speak with a “perverse mouth” by twisting truth, making excuses, or speaking without honor?

Answer → Every careless word is weighed. If excuses flow from my lips, I am justifying myself instead of exalting Him. Perverse speech is not only lies, but dishonor, cynicism, and compromise.

Does my tongue reflect a fear of YHWH?

Answer → The tongue is a mirror of the heart. If I fear YHWH, my words will be careful, truthful, merciful, and pure. If my words are reckless, my fear of Him is shallow.

Do I align my decisions with what He loves and values—or with what the world praises?

Answer → If I chase the applause of men, I cannot serve YHWH fully. To align with Him is to sometimes stand alone, misunderstood, even despised — yet secure in His favor.

If I were to weigh my daily choices, would they show a heart that fears YHWH?

Answer → Choices are the true measure of fear. Reverence is not in what I say on Shabbat but in how I walk on Tuesday. A heart that fears YHWH shows it by the pattern of life, not by momentary bursts of devotion.

Am I walking in strong confidence because of my reverence—or do I live in fear of people and outcomes more than I fear YHWH?

Answer → If fear of men governs my steps, then my confidence is brittle. But if fear of YHWH fills my heart, I walk unshaken. Reverence breeds boldness, because I have already bowed before the Highest King.

What does that say about who I trust?

Answer → If I tremble before men, I trust men. If I tremble before YHWH, I trust YHWH. My fear reveals my faith.

Is my life being prolonged by obedience—or slowly destroyed by compromise?

Answer → Compromise corrodes silently, shortening life not only in years but in meaning. Obedience adds weight and substance — days become full, years become fruitful.

What if “long life” isn’t just about years, but about meaningful days?

Answer → A long life without meaning is vanity. To fear YHWH is to multiply the value of every day. A single day in His courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Do I drink from the ‘fountain of life’ that fear of YHWH provides?

Answer → The fountain is open, but I must bend to drink. If I seek wisdom, purity, and truth, I drink deeply. If I fill myself with shallow pleasures, I walk past the fountain thirsty.

Or have I settled for shallow streams that do not satisfy or protect?

Answer → Shallow streams sparkle but run dry. They cannot sustain. Only the fear of YHWH is deep enough to quench and strong enough to protect.

Have I mistaken “fear” for mere respect—rather than seeing it as a consuming fire that purifies my heart and choices?

Answer → Respect can be polite and distant. Fear is consuming. YHWH is not asking for courtesy but for trembling love that purifies and transforms. Anything less is unworthy of Him.

Am I willing to let that fire burn?

Answer → If I resist the fire, I remain mixed, impure. If I submit, the fire cleanses me. The question is not whether the fire will come — it is whether I will yield to its refining.

If the fear of YHWH is the beginning of wisdom... where am I on that path? Have I truly begun?

Answer → Wisdom does not begin with intellect but with trembling. If I have not bowed, I have not begun. To begin is to confess: “*He is holy, I am not; He is right, I will learn.*” The path stretches far, but the first step is holy fear.

Whisper Nugget:

*Fear of YHWH is not terror that drives me away
— it is awe that draws me near, a fire that both consumes and preserves.*



The fear of YHWH is the beginning of knowledge

(Proverbs 1:7)



As Blood is to the Body – So Torah is to the Soul