

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## The Fear We Choose

(Jerry Fite)

**T**here is a fear that immediately rises in our hearts to dominate our feelings when we face sudden terror or calamity. The horror of the moment seems too great to overcome with our own power, so we stand momentarily in fear, knowing not what to do. The Proverbs warns those who refuse God and His wisdom will face such a calamity without the delivering hand of God. In fact God says, *“I will mock when your fear cometh”* (Proverbs 1:26). Is God being hateful and uncaring when He reacts this way? No, because He tells us such people had the opportunity to know Him and follow His wisdom, but they *“did not choose the fear of Jehovah”* (Proverbs 1:29).

There is a fear that is not a mere reaction or feeling, but one we should choose. It is the fear of Jehovah. This fear is the reverence for Jehovah which places Him first in our life as we respect His word and diligently follow His ways. *“The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction”* (Proverbs 1:7). Not

only is this “fear” the beginning or chief part of obtaining knowledge, but it must be in place in order to obtain true wisdom. *“The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”* (Proverbs 9:10). Parents, if we fail to impress upon our children’s minds the necessity of choosing to fear God, we will be depriving them of the only foundation for a successful life. The fear they are left with is that terrifying fear that will arise in their hearts as their precious soul and body is cast into the everlasting fires of Hell.

When our minds begin to wander, observing the so-called “good” or “prosperous life” of people who care not for God nor follow His ways, we need a good dosage of the fear of God. In fact the reverence or fear of Jehovah should be there all day long for such protection. *“Let not thy heart envy sinners; but be thou in the fear of Jehovah all the day long”* (Proverbs 23:17).

In fact, such fear will help compensate for not having much of this world’s treasures, as we

press on to the true treasures of heaven. It will help us to be content or sufficient with little. *“Better is little, with the fear of Jehovah, than great treasure and trouble therewith”* (Proverbs 15:16).

Choosing to fear Jehovah will create the proper attitude toward evil, never allowing ourselves to tolerate evil or be complacent with sin *“The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil, pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth, do I hate”* (Proverbs 8:13). Choosing to fear Jehovah, we will hate every effort to displace God from the origin of all things by the arrogant minds of man. We may acknowledge man’s degrees of higher learning, but we will not be caught up in following after them. Why, because we fear Jehovah and therefore we hate their pride and arrogancy. We will not be lulled into accepting homosexual marriage, or sex outside of marriage. Why, because we fear Jehovah and hate the evil way. The fear of Jehovah is necessary for successful living and practical for holy living. Choose this fear!