

## What Does It Mean to Fear God?

What is the context of Abraham's and Moses' fear of God? What do you observe of God's interaction with these men?

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." (Gen 15:1, ESV)

Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. (Gen 18:27, ESV)

2) And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3) And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4) When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5) Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6) And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. (Ex 3:2-6, ESV)

Why should mankind fear the Lord?

11) But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

12) He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." (Gen 22:11-12, ESV)

18) Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off 19) and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." 20) Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." (Ex 20:20, ESV)

28) "And the LORD heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, 'I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. 29) Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever! 30) Go and say to them, "Return to your tents." 31) But you, stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess.' 32) You shall be careful therefore 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 way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess. (Deut 5:28-33, ESV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov 1:7, ESV)

14) "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15) "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16) in their paths are ruin and misery, 17) and the way of peace they have not known." 18) "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Rom 3:14-18, ESV)

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matt 10:28, ESV)

13) By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14) And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16) So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17) By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (1 John 4:13-18, ESV)