

## Emet Yeshiva

### **Lesson Twelve** ***The Fear of YHWH***

- 1) **The fear of YHWH is a concept that stretches the text of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This is a subject that must be studied and understood before a meaningful relationship with the Creator can develop. Fear is a scary concept. It can paralyze or it can inspire. Everyone is afraid of something. There is a difference though, in fearing stuff or fearing man and fearing the Almighty. The Messiah spoke of this when he said, "Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you shall fear: Fear Him, who after He has killed has power to throw into Gei-Hinnom; yes, I say to you, Fear Him." – Luka / Luke 12: 4, 5. The fear of YHWH is different than the fear of man.**

"For YHWH has not given us the Ruach (spirit) of fear; but of power, and of ahava (love), and of a sound mind," Timothy Bet -- 2 Timothy 1: 7

"The fear of YHWH is the beginning of da'at (knowledge): but fools despise chochmah (wisdom) and discipline," – Mishle / Proverbs 1: 7

"YHWH is my Light and my Yahshua (salvation); whom shall I fear? YHWH is the strength of my chayim (life); of whom shall I be afraid?" Tehillim / Psalm 27: 1.

- 2) **To fear YHWH is a direct command of the Scriptures, it is one of the 613 mitzvot (commandments) of the Torah, yet it is forgotten. "You shall fear YHWH your Elohim, and serve Him, and shall swear by His Name. You shall not go after other Elohim," -- Devarim / Deuteronomy 6: 13, 14. We know a lot about many of the commandments in the Torah, now it is time to learn about fearing YHWH!**

**Many have some knowledge about the fear of YHWH, yet this information is rarely used and seldom considered. This study will take an honest look at the fear of YHWH. "Therefore receiving a Malchut (kingdom) that cannot be moved, let us have favor, by which we may serve YHWH acceptably with reverence and fear: For our Elohim is a consuming fire," Ivrim / Hebrews 12: 28, 29.**

**Perhaps one reason this matter is not a motivating force within our daily walk is because of how it has been presented to us in the past. The mainstream church teaches the fear of the "1/rd" to be exclusively, a deep reverence and respect for the Almighty. The evangelist says that we are to be in awe of the Creator, not scared of Him. The church preaches that the fear of the YHWH is NOT to be understood as being related to judgment, punishment and sin. We are told to just confess our sins to a priest or that 'love is all that matters'. "Christians tend to de-emphasize the fear of g/d in the New Testament by placing the love of g/d above the fear of Him. There is indeed a greater emphasis on the love of Elohim in the New Testament. However, the element of fear was part of the proclamation of the early believers," says the Holman Bible Dictionary, a Baptist publication. This begs the questions, 'Are we really to reverence the power and majesty of YHWH and not expect His judgment and punishment in our lives?'**

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“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is YHWH who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose,” Philippians 2:12-13

“Should you not fear me?” declares YHWH. “Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it. But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away. They do not say to themselves, ‘Let us fear YHWH our YHWH, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest,’” Jeremiah 5:22-24

- 3) To reference the fear of YHWH only as awe though, is to present only part of the case. It is to portray a lion without its teeth; or a King without His scepter. We pacify the Almighty, to the point that we'll accept anything. This idea presents a type of “god” on Prozac, one who doesn't care about motives, ethics, or actions. We reason that there's no need to fear the Creator because His Son died for us. Thinking like this betrays only being sorry when we are caught doing something wrong. Yet, this is all we really know. It is all that we have been taught, until now.**

**The emet, the truth is that reverence and awe of YHWH is part of fearing Him, but it is not the whole truth. What do the Scriptures teach about this issue? How are the Hebraic and Christian concepts of fear different? Could fear be a good, a 'tov' thing?**

“Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared YHWH, and they offered a sacrifice to YHWH and made vows to him,” Jonah 1:15-16

“So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,” says YHWH Almighty,” Malachi 3:5

“Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go better with YHWH-fearing men, who are reverent before YHWH. Yet because the wicked do not fear YHWH, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow,” Ecclesiastes 8:12-13

- 4) For children, fear can be very beneficial. Part of this deterrent is the likelihood of getting caught. Believers know it is a certainty, that YHWH knows all and sees all. Just as, when we were kids, our Mom always knew what we had done. Well, YHWH is our Father and we are His children, therefore fear should be a natural part of our relationship. “Behold what manner of ahava (love) Abba (our father) has bestowed on us, that we should be called b'nai (children of) YHWH! Therefore the olam hazeh (world) does not know us, because it did not know Him,” -- Yochannan Alef / First**

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**John 3: 1. We, as children of Abba YHWH, need to learn a little bit about fearing daddy. The book of Proverbs says much about the fear of YHWH. Consider these verses:**

1:7 The fear of YHWH is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

1:29-31 Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear YHWH, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

2:1-5 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of YHWH and find the knowledge of YHWH.

3:7-8 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear YHWH and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

8:13 To fear YHWH is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

9:10 The fear of YHWH is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

10:27 The fear of YHWH adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

14:2 He whose walk is upright fears YHWH, but he whose ways are devious despises him.

14:16 A wise man fears YHWH and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

14:26-27 He who fears YHWH has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of YHWH is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

15:16 Better a little with the fear of YHWH than great wealth with turmoil.

15:33 The fear of YHWH teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honour.

16:6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of YHWH a man avoids evil.

19:23 The fear of YHWH leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

22:4 Humility and the fear of YHWH bring wealth and honor and life.

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23:17-18 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of YHWH. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

24:21-22 Fear YHWH and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious, for those two will send sudden destruction upon them, and who knows what calamities they can bring?

28:14 Blessed is the man who always fears YHWH, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in YHWH is kept safe.

31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears YHWH is to be praised.

- 5) **After Adam originally sinned in the Gan Eden, Adam does something really strange. He does something very childish. He hides. “And YHWH Elohim called to Adam, and said to him, where are you? And he said, I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the eytz (tree) that I commanded you that you should not eat?” Beresheeth / Genesis 3: 10, 11.**

**Just think about what happened to Adam for a minute. Here is a man, now hiding in the bushes that had “walked with YHWH in the cool of the day”. Why would he be hiding? Adam recognized that he did something wrong and that this, most-certainly-known disobedience brought about the emotion of fear. As a child who had been caught red-handed, Adam hides from His Father.**

**Adam hid because he recognized his fall from his exalted state and knew that a holy and awesome Mighty One would most-certainly know about the situation. Additionally, he recognized that YHWH would be displeased, for he and the woman had done precisely what they'd been forbidden! To Adam, fear was more than just reverence and awe; Adam was hiding because he had a reason to be scared to death! He was terrified! Adam, who had a perfect, unhindered, relationship with YHWH, was now hiding because of his sin! Likewise, even as children of our earthly parents, we know that doing what our earthly Dad says we are not to do causes his displeasure and warrants his wrath! Like Adam, we, as children of Abba YHWH, know that we are caught. We ought to fear our heavenly Father! Perhaps there is more to this issue than we have been taught. Perhaps we should do a little more hiding.**

“The fear of YHWH is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise,” Psalm 111:10

“And now, O Israel, what does YHWH your YHWH ask of you but to fear YHWH your YHWH, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve YHWH your YHWH with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe YHWH's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?,” Deuteronomy 10:12-13

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- 6) **To fear YHWH is to possess an emotional trait equal to a leash on a dog. The fear of YHWH allows us to go and do as our Master allows. Then, our leash will be tugged if we go a little too far on our own. Our leash is pulled back when we don't see the impending danger of our actions or if we cross a dangerous line. It's the idea of "yirah YHWH." Scary Hebrew terminology? Not really. The phrase "yirah YHWH" is pretty simple to grasp. It literally means to be, "terrified, exceedingly dreadful, morally reverent, terribly frightened." We need the restraint that the yirah YHWH provides.**

"Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. YHWH has come to test you, so that the fear of YHWH will be with you to keep you from sinning," Exodus 20:20

"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear YHWH, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son," Genesis 22:12

"Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your YHWH. I am YHWH," Leviticus 19:14

"Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your YHWH. I am YHWH your YHWH," Leviticus 25:14

- 7) **We need to understand that to yirah YHWH is to respect the results of life's decisions. It is directly connected to our acts of service, to the devotion of our heart, and to our love of the Saint. When we yirah YHWH we are, in essence, acknowledging the laws that He has set in place to govern the universe. We are seeing Him as the Melek, the king of the universe. We are seeing the power of sin to displease Him, to warrant His punishment upon us. In understanding exactly what yirah YHWH means, let's consider a few pasuks (verses) on the subject:**

"The fear of YHWH, that is chochmah (wisdom); and to depart from evil is binah (understanding)," – Iyov / Job 28: 28

"The fear of YHWH is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil halakha (way to walk) a, and the perverted mouth," – Mishle / Proverbs 8: 13

"The fear of YHWH is the beginning of chochmah (wisdom): a tov binah (understanding) have all those that do His mitzvot (commandments)," – Tehillim / Psalms 111: 10

"By the fear of YHWH men depart from evil," – Mishle / Proverbs 16: 6

"Be not wise in your own eyes: fear YHWH, and depart from evil," -- Mishle / Proverbs 3: 8

"Should you not fear me?" declares YHWH. "Should you not tremble in my presence?" -- Yermi'yahu / Jeremiah 5: 22 (NIV)

- 8) **It is easy to see that the function of the fear of YHWH is to actually bring wisdom. The yisar of YHWH is the means by which we turn away from evil. As we turn to YHWH and from evil we are made wise.**

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**The yisar of YHWH is to be coupled with ahava (love) and service of the Almighty. It is actually "required" for all who want to follow YHWH seriously. "And now, Yisrael, what does YHWH your Elohim require of you, but to fear YHWH your Elohim, to have your halakha in all His halachot, and to love Him, and to serve YHWH your Elohim with all your lev and with all your being," – Devarim / Deuteronomy 10: 12.**

"For YHWH your YHWH dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. YHWH your YHWH did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of YHWH is powerful and so that you might always fear YHWH your YHWH," Joshua 4:23-24

**9) Let's now consider the remote possibility that the fear of YHWH is actually something different. Perhaps the fear of YHWH is, in fact, the things He is afraid of. Perhaps the fear of YHWH is having His fears in mind all of the time. Just imagine YHWH being scared...**

**If YHWH could be afraid of anything, what would it be? What would cause the Creator of the universe to shrink back and shiver? What makes Elohim scared? What are YHWH's fears?**

**If YHWH could be scared of anything, it wouldn't be heights, as He is higher than the highest mountain. It wouldn't be spiders or snakes, as He created all the animals. He couldn't be fearful of the dark, death, or dirt, as He is greater than all these.**

**If YHWH could be afraid of anything, it would be separation caused by sin. The one thing that could make YHWH recoil in shock, is the idea of the Creator being separated from the creation. With this in mind, let's understand that to have the fear of YHWH is to actually have His fears – to personally fear what He fears.**

**Yes, it is conceivable and quite probable that to have the fear of YHWH is to actually be concerned about what concerns Him. It is to dread what He dreads and run from what He runs from. It is to be upset over the same things that He gets mad at. Friend, to have the fear of YHWH is actually to have the fear of sin. YHWH is scared of the only power in the universe that separates Him from His creation, the power of sin, and He wants us to have that same fear.**

**The Talmud says, "He who fears YHWH may be likened to the wise artisan who keeps his tools always ready for work," Ab. R. N. xii..**

**Now, let's recall the verse from the Proverbs, "The fear of YHWH is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil halakha (way to walk), and the perverted mouth," – Mishle / Proverbs 8: 13.**

**To yisar YHWH is to fear sin, because it separates us from Elohim. What does it mean to fear sin? What does it mean, Hebraically, to sin? To fear sin we must first understand exactly what sin is and how it affects mankind. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your Elohim, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear," -- Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 59:2, NIV.**

"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear YHWH and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones," Proverbs 3:7-8

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“Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that YHWH does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right,"” Acts 10:34-35

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family,” Hebrews 11:7

“Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear,” 1 Peter 1:7

**10) The yisar YHWH is a subject that has been practically ignored by saints for many years. We have placed the love of Elohim above the fear of Elohim and downgraded His judgment and power. As children of Father YHWH let's fear daddy a little bit. Consider the fear of YHWH to be more than just reverence and awe of the Creator. It is to have His fears, to be scared of what frightens Him, which is separation caused by sin. The fear of YHWH should be a factor in all of our lives, causing us to sin less and walk in the Spirit more. For indeed, it is because of a lack of fear that we sin. Consider these verses from Revelation:**

“Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear YHWH and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water,” Revelation 14:6-7

“Who will not fear you, O YHWH, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed," Revelation 15:4

“Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our YHWH, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great," Revelation 19:5

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### **Lesson Twelve**

#### ***Study and Discussion Questions***

- 1) Define the term “fear of YHWH.” What does the “fear of YHWH” mean to you?
  
- 2) Explain how the fear of YHWH should keep a person from sin.
  
- 3) Use the verses above to learn how the fear of YHWH is used throughout the book of Proverbs. Why was this subject so important to the author of Proverbs?
  
- 4) Look up 1 Chronicles 16:25-26 and paraphrase the verse below.
  
- 5) What specifically did you learn from this study? How can you apply the fear of YHWH to your life?
  
- 6) According to the following verses how does the fear of YHWH help us in our relationship with YHWH?  
Exodus 20:20  
Deuteronomy 5:29  
Psalm 25:14  
Psalm 103:11  
Psalm 145:19  
Psalm 147:11
  
- 7) According to Hebrews 10:26-27 what can we expect if we choose not to fear YHWH?

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#### **The Letter Lamed / Lamed**



This is the Hebrew letter “lamed.” It was once a picture of a goad or stick used to probe a farm animal to obedience.



The “lamed” gives the “L” sound as in “laughter.” This is the largest Hebrew letter.



The lamed is the 12<sup>th</sup> Hebrew letter and the number 30. The



A few words that begin with a “lamed are:

<b>Lashon Hara</b>	Evil Speaking, Gossip, Or Slander
<b>Lashuv</b>	To Return Again
<b>Le</b>	To
<b>Lechayim</b>	To Life, Or Long Life
<b>Lechem</b>	Bread
<b>Lechem Ha Panayim</b>	Bread Of The Faces, Or Showbread In The Ancient Temple.
<b>Le-Olam-Va-Ed</b>	Forever, Or For eternity
<b>Lev</b>	Heart
<b>Lev Echad</b>	One Heart, Or One Purpose
<b>Levanon</b>	Lebanon
<b>Lewi</b>	A Levite, A Levi, Or Tribe Of Levi
<b>Lewiyim</b>	Levites (Plural)
<b>Lo</b>	No
<b>Lo-Ami</b>	Not My People
<b>Lo-Ruchamah</b>	No Compassion

