Fear of the Lord

Definition of "The Fear of the Lord":

Yārē -to be afraid, be frightened; to revere, respect; to be awesome, be dreadful, be feared; to frighten, terrify, intimidate; in some contexts, fear relates to honor, respect and awe, as in "the fear of the LORD'

Key Verse:

Pr 3:7 "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil."

Abraham:

Gen 11:12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." [Abraham feared God more than he loved his son.]

Joseph:

Gen 42:18 " On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God:"

[In spite of the hardships Joseph had experienced, he still reverenced God.]

Moses and Pharaoh:

Ex 9:30 "But I know that you and your officials still do not fear the LORD God."

[Even after a number of plagues and evidence of God's power, Pharaoh and his officials still didn't give God the respect He was due. It is interesting that Pharaoh hardened his heart at first and later God hardened Pharaoh's heart. In other words, we are the first ones to harden our hearts and if we remain stubborn, God will increase that hardening for His purposes. God knows everyone's hearts and thoughts.]

In the Law:

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

[Don't be cruel to the handicapped.]

Lev 25:17 "Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the LORD your God." [Speaking about the year of Jubilee and fair payment for workers or use of land.]

Lev 25:43 "Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God." [Speaking about fellow Israelites who have sold themselves to you because they fell on hard times.]

Dt 5:29 "Oh, that their [Israelites] hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!"

Dt 6:2 "so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life."

Dt 6:13 "Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name."

Dt 6:24 "The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today."

Dt 10:12-13 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **13** and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?"

Other OT Scriptures:

Ps 33:8 "Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him."

Ps 34:9 "Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing."

Ps 55:19 "God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change—he will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God."

Jer 5:24-25 "They do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.' Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good."

If you fear the Lord you will:

- Shun evil
- Withhold nothing from God
- Let it affect all your decisions
- Serve God only
- Walk in obedience
- Love Him
- Observe God's decrees
- Revere Him

If you don't fear the Lord you will:

- Be wise in your own eyes
- Harden your heart
- Be cruel to the weak and handicapped
- Take advantage of those working for you
- Rule over people ruthlessly
- Be humbled by God
- Your sins will deprive you of good

If you fear the Lord:

- It will go well for you and your children
- Enjoy long life
- Prosper and be kept alive
- It will be for your own good
- Lack nothing

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