



*No Longer Awed By God, Jeremiah 2:13, 19*

## No Longer Awed By God

- In Hebrew Scripture you will find the word Yirah associated with God Almighty
  - It directly translated into fear or awe, strongly connected to the word ‘trembling’
  - Awe—Yirah, has to do with beholding something that is beyond one’s capabilities and understanding
    - A sense of wonder and even danger

## No Longer Awed By God

- In Hebrew Scripture you will find the word Yirah associated with God Almighty
  - **Psalm 33:8-9 NIV**, 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.
  - **Proverbs 1:7 NIV**, The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

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- In Hebrew Scripture you will find the word Yirah associated with God Almighty
  - **Hebrews 12:28-29 NIV**, Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”

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- **Mark 4:34-41 NIV**, 35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

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- **Mark 4:34-41 NIV**, 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” 41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

## No Longer Awed By God

- Today we look at Yirah more as respect, reverence, worship through His love but we take away the idea of trembling or danger
- The Israelites were filled with trembling fear (*yirah*) when Moses came down Mount Sinai; they were so shaken that they promised with one voice to do whatever the Lord said

## No Longer Awed By God

- God pulled back His eternal cover and Israel caught a true glimpse of the glory, power, and majesty of God Almighty
- To say He is awesome would be an understatement

## No Longer Awed By God

- Peter, James, and John were filled with awe as Jesus' true character was revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration hearing the voice of God
  - **Matthew 17:6 NIV**, When the disciples heard this (*the voice of God*), they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.
- Who can explain the empty tomb of Jesus adequately without a sense of awe?

## No Longer Awed By God

- What happens to an individual or congregation who lets their sense of awe for God slip?
  - They will start to make their own spiritual cisterns but will discover they never hold satisfying water

## Scripture

- **Jeremiah 2:13 NIV**, My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
  - Why, how did this happen?
- **Jeremiah 2:19 NIV**, Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of me,” declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty.

## The generation after the conquering

- **Judges 2:10 NIV**, After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who (*intimately*) knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.
  - **AMP**, did not know (recognize, understand) the Lord

## The generation after the conquering

- When the telling of the nation they put God secondary to their own efforts
  - We walked around the walls of Jericho for seven days
  - Our priests told us to blow the trumpets on the seventh day and the walls fell
  - We captured the city and eventually all of Canaan
  - What's missing?

## The generation after the conquering

- The Yirah or awe of God
- The result is found in verses **Judges 2:11-12 NIV**, 11  
Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt...They aroused the Lord's anger.

## The generation after the conquering

- The awe of God was not passed onto them thus they followed their heart and went their own way
- Jeremiah defines what this looks like by using the image of fresh, clean, refreshing water verses what is found in a cistern

## **Israel rejected the claims God had on their lives and followed instead their own sense of truth and wisdom**

- We must remember God is speaking to His people
- He has a valid, eternal claim on their lives
- He is the one who brought them out of Egypt, provided for them in the wilderness, gave them the land of Canaan, gave them victory while occupying the land
- God did this because He is in a covenant agreement with them

**Israel rejected the claims God had on their lives and followed instead their own sense of truth and wisdom**

- As true Christians we are in covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and He has a claim on our lives
- God defined His Word and relationship with Israel as, “the spring of living water”

## **Israel rejected the claims God had on their lives and followed instead their own sense of truth and wisdom**

- Spring water comes from the heart of the earth, nothing man made
- It is clear, clean, refreshing and nothing man can do will make it better, only less pure
- This is what God promises to those who walk in His Word, Ways and in our relationship with Him
- It is refreshing how simple life can be when we just let God be God and we know our place in the relationship

## **Israel rejected the claims God had on their lives and followed instead their own sense of truth and wisdom**

- But instead, Israel chose to turn away from God's spiritual spring and dig for themselves spiritual cisterns
- Mark Morgan, "Water was collected using channels shaped to direct water into the cistern. However, when rain starts and water begins to flow in channels where it has not flowed for some time, the water carries with it lots of accumulated dirt, leaves and other rubbish, not to mention bird droppings and the bodies of dead animals.

## **Israel rejected the claims God had on their lives and followed instead their own sense of truth and wisdom**

- Mark Morgan, “Avoiding the contamination introduced by this “first flush” requires some careful design and is not easy. As a result, cisterns will normally accumulate mud and rubbish at the bottom and can often contain somewhat dirty and unpleasantly flavored water.”
- Notice this was man’s version of God’s spring, and it appears to be fulfilling
- But it comes with some nasty side effects, just look at society today for proof

## **Israel rejected the claims God had on their lives and followed instead their own sense of truth and wisdom**

- But Israel's cisterns were not only nasty they were cracked and did not hold any water, just the contamination at the bottom
  - It would not be there in times of need
  - They would run to it and find it empty

**Israel rejected the claims God had on their lives and followed instead their own sense of truth and wisdom**

- That is the problem with man's truth and wisdom
  - It is contaminated because of man's limited understanding
  - It will not sustain you in the fires of life

## Israel rejected the claims God had on their lives and followed instead their own sense of truth and wisdom

- Why did Israel go this direction?
  - They lost their awe of God
  - Why do we think we are different today?
- **John 7:37-38 NIV**, 37 On the last and greatest day of the festival (*Festival of Tabernacles*), Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.

## Only awe for God will give you the strength and hope necessary to walk through your fires of life

- **Job 31:35 NLT**, “If only someone would listen to me! Look, I will sign my name to my defense. Let the Almighty answer me. Let my accuser write out the charges against me.
- In response to Jobs’ lament and questions God does not try and explain why but who
- Jobs’ questions were not why but who is control

## Only awe for God will give you the strength and hope necessary to walk through your fires of life

- **Job 38:1-4 NIV**, Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: 2 “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 4 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

## Only awe for God will give you the strength and hope necessary to walk through your fires of life

- **Job 40:1-5 NIV**, The Lord said to Job: 2 “Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!” 3 Then Job answered the Lord: 4 “I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. 5 I spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more.”

## Only awe for God will give you the strength and hope necessary to walk through your fires of life

- **Job 42:1-6 NIV**, Then Job replied to the Lord: 2 “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

## **Only awe for God will give you the strength and hope necessary to walk through your fires of life**

- What changed?
  - Job was awestruck and now knew his place in his relationship with God
  - Job was comforted in the fact that the God of the Universe did not forget and did not sleep
  - Nothing was out of His control or foreknowledge

## **Only awe for God will give you the strength and hope necessary to walk through your fires of life**

- One can assume that Job's loss and grief did not go immediately away
- But Job's, encounter with the God of the Universe changed him and made him strong enough to not be bitter about his loss and to worship God still

## **Lisa Bevere, “We are a generation that has been stripped of our awe for God.”**

- Part of this stripping comes from:
  - The sciences declaring there is now no need for a God
  - The stripping away of God’s judgement and righteousness focusing only on love
  - The glorification of man
  - The false teachings about God

## Lisa Bevere, “We are a generation that has been stripped of our awe for God.”

- Scripture tells us in **Proverbs 9:10 NIV**, The yirah/fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- **Isaiah 66:2 NIV**, “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.”

## Lisa Bevere, “We are a generation that has been stripped of our awe for God.”

- We must regain our sense of awe and reverence for God
- Jesus boiled down how to three simple things: Love God, love your neighbor, and then do what God says
- If you regain your awe of God then He promises us in **1st Corinthians 2:9 NLT**, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”



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