

Our Jewish Roots: Biblical Insights from the Rabbis

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Part 2

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Q. The Fear of the Lord

- 1. Fear and Punishment**
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DOES JOB FEAR GOD FOR NOTHING?

Job 1:9

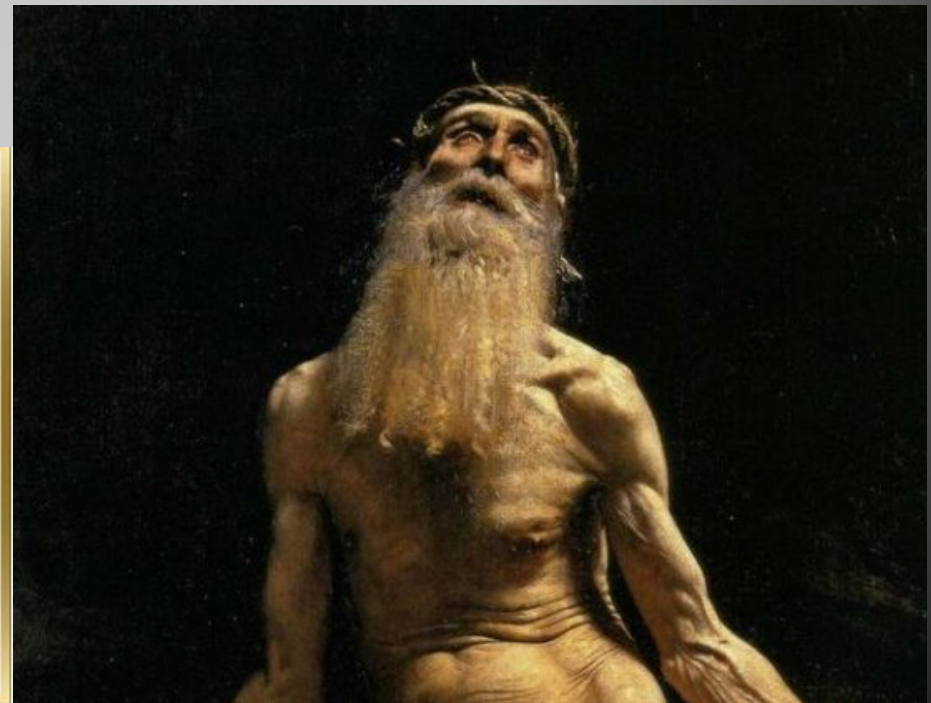
Have you considered My servant Job,
that there is none like him on the
earth, a blameless and upright man,
one who fears God and shuns evil?

Job 1:8 NKJV

Job 9:34-35

King James Version Bible

Let him take his rod away from me,
and let not his fear terrify me: Then
would I speak, and not fear him; but it
is not so with me. ...



CREATION MYSTERIES

Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm. He said;

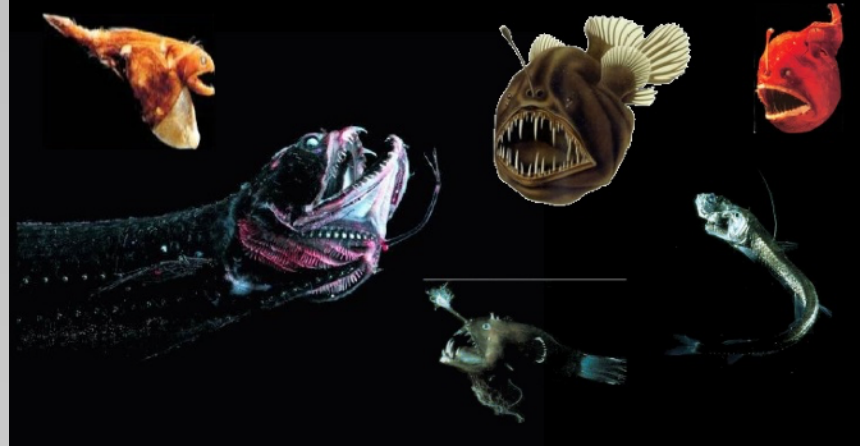
Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?

Brace yourself like a man; I will question you and you shall answer me.

Job 38:1-3

Underwater World (Job 38: 16-18)

**"Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
Have the gates of death been shown to you?
Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?"**



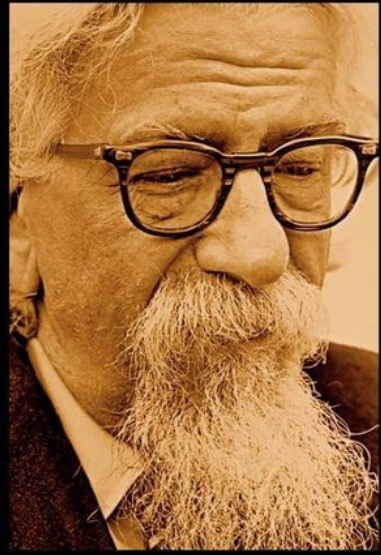
"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone- while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?" Job 38:4-7



*SURELY I SPOKE
ABOUT THINGS I
DID NOT UNDERSTAND,
THINGS TOO
WONDROUS
FOR ME TO KNOW.*

JOB 42:3

“Radical Amazement”



"Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement, [to] get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed."

- Abraham Joshua Heschel -

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?

Psalm 8:3-4 (NLT)

*"I praise you,
for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made."*

- Psalm 139:14



THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD;
THE SKIES PROCLAIM THE WORK OF HIS HANDS.
DAY AFTER DAY THEY POUR FORTH SPEECH;
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT THEY REVEAL KNOWLEDGE.
THEY HAVE NO SPEECH, THEY USE NO WORDS;
NO SOUND IS HEARD FROM THEM.
YET THEIR VOICES GOES OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH,
THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.
PSALM 19:1-4

The Mystery of God

Clouds and darkness are round about Him, righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne.

Psalms 97:2

Then spake Solomon, The Lord said that He would dwell in the thick darkness.

1 Kings 8:12



"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, either are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.


"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9



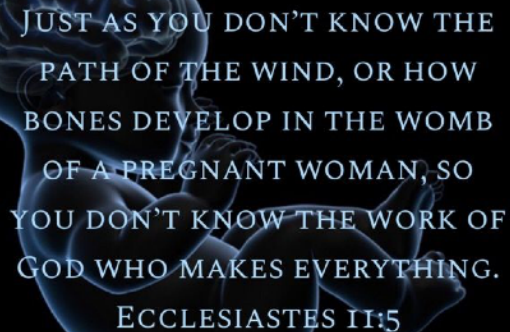
"This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."

(Ezekiel 1:28)

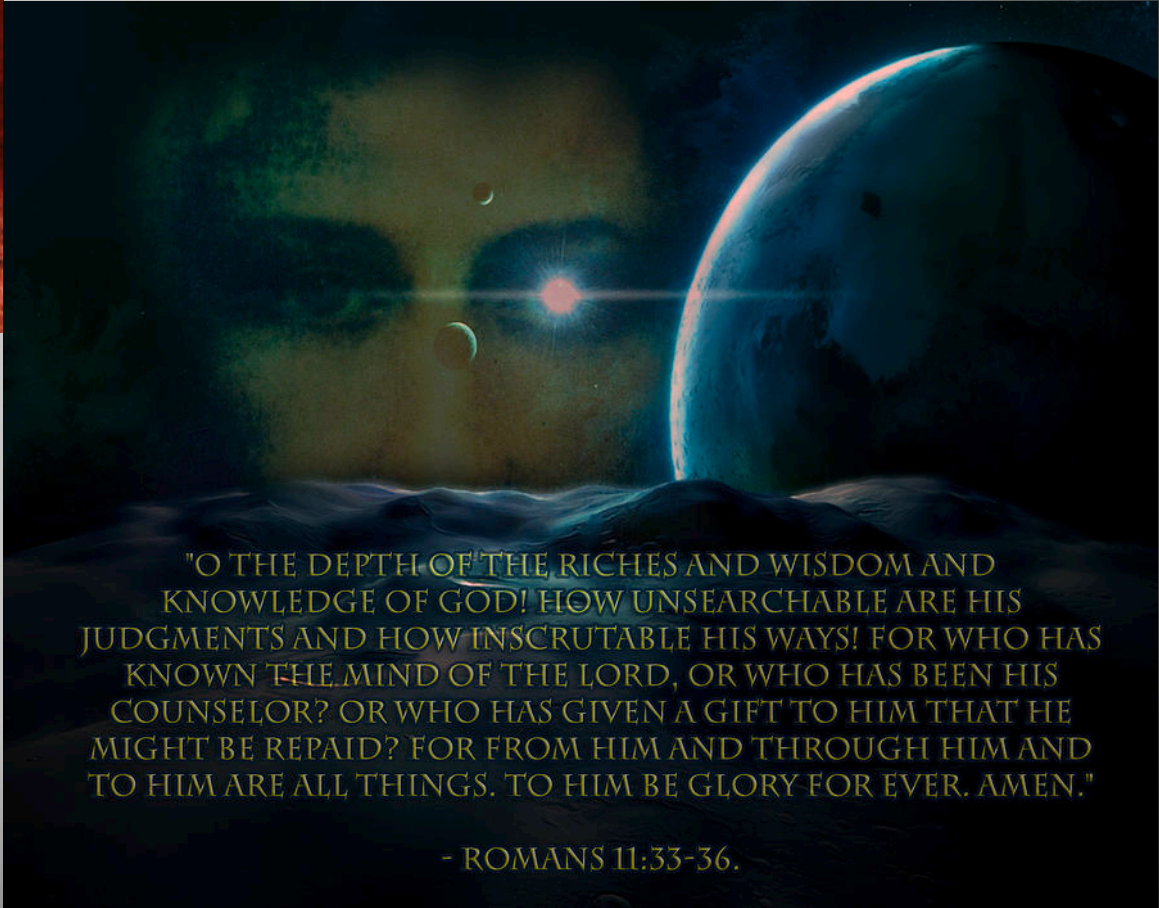


**"THE SECRET THINGS BELONG
TO THE LORD OUR GOD, BUT
THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE
REVEALED BELONG TO US AND
TO OUR CHILDREN FOREVER,
THAT WE MAY DO ALL THE
WORDS OF THIS LAW.
DEUTERONOMY 29:29 NKJV**

Meaning Behind the Mystery



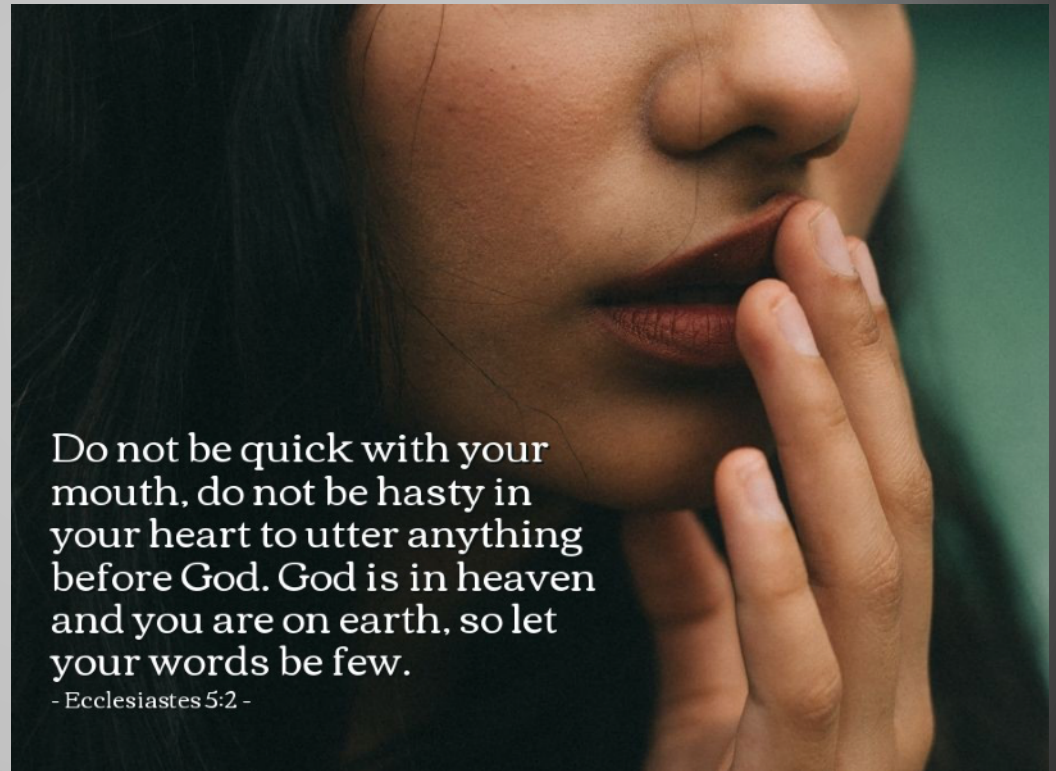
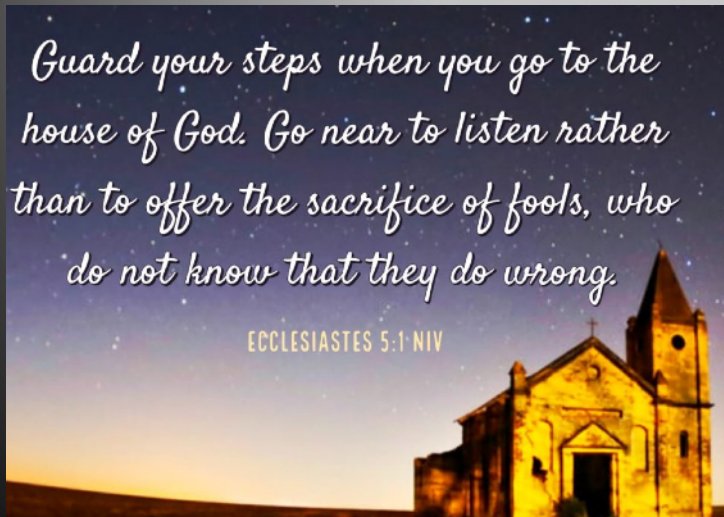
JUST AS YOU DON'T KNOW THE
PATH OF THE WIND, OR HOW
BONES DEVELOP IN THE WOMB
OF A PREGNANT WOMAN, SO
YOU DON'T KNOW THE WORK OF
GOD WHO MAKES EVERYTHING.
ECCLESIASTES 11:5



"O THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES AND WISDOM AND
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! HOW UNSEARCHABLE ARE HIS
JUDGMENTS AND HOW INSCRUTABLE HIS WAYS! FOR WHO HAS
KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO HAS BEEN HIS
COUNSELOR? OR WHO HAS GIVEN A GIFT TO HIM THAT HE
MIGHT BE REPAYED? FOR FROM HIM AND THROUGH HIM AND
TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS. TO HIM BE GLORY FOR EVER. AMEN."

- ROMANS 11:33-36.

Just Be Quiet!



Fear and Awe



Rabbi Shai Held, 12/4/14

“Do not be like servants who serve their master on condition of receiving reward, but be like servants who serve their master not on condition of receiving a reward; and let the fear of Heaven be upon you.”

(*m. Avot* 1:3)

“If fear and awe are so different, why does the same Hebrew word convey both meanings?”

Awe is what happens to fear when it stops being about me.

Fear becomes awe when I forget about myself and focus only on God.”

“The only ones who serve God in this way are the uneducated and children, who are trained to serve from fear until their knowledge grows and they come to serve out of love.”

Maimonides

Fear and Obedience

*That's the whole story.
Here now is my
final conclusion:
Fear God and obey his
commands, for this is
everyone's duty. God
will judge us for everything
we do, including every secret
thing, whether good or bad.
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*

**If you will fear the Lord and
serve him and obey his voice and
not rebel against the
commandment of the Lord, and
if both you and the king who
reigns over you will follow the
Lord your God, it will be well.**

- 1 Samuel 12:14

Deuteronomy 6:1-2

1 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 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.

Jeremiah 7:4-7

Do not trust in these deceptive words: This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.

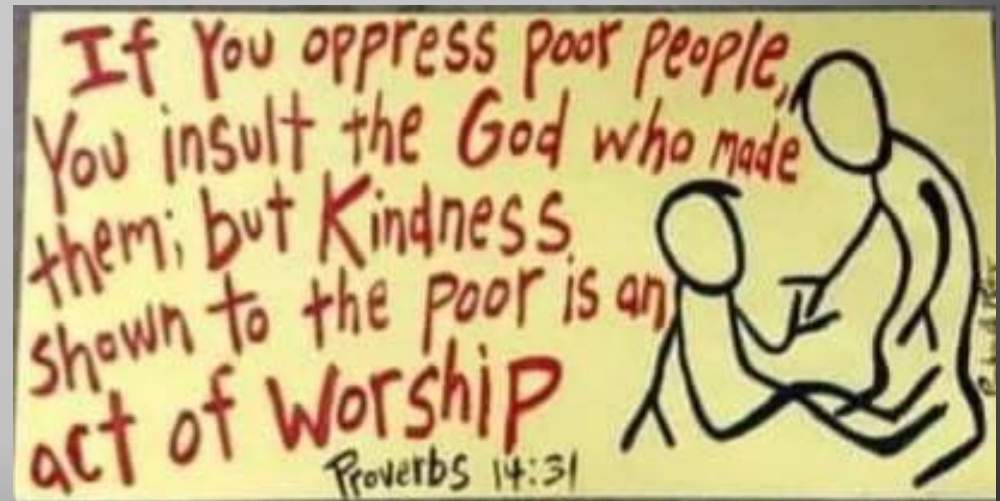
For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds; if you truly execute justice one with another,

if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm,

then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.

“Worship and living are not two separate realms. Unless living is a form of worship, our worship has no life.”

“There is no reverence for God without reverence for man. The fear lest we hurt a poor man must be as deep as the fear of God.” R. Abraham Joshua Heschel



Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.
Acts 9:31 NIV

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others.”

(2 Cor. 5:11 NRSV)

In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right.

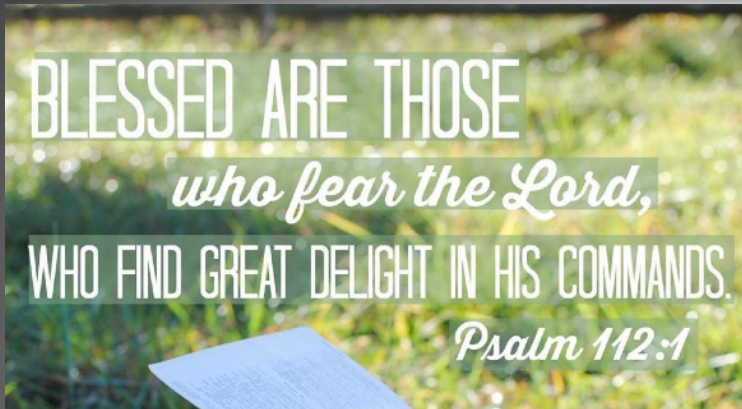
- Acts 10:35

15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

1 Peter 1.15-17

FEAR, DELIGHT, and LOVE



Lord God of heaven, you are great and fearsome. And you faithfully keep your promises to everyone who loves you and obeys your commands.
Nehemiah 1:5

“I love your statutes; my flesh trembles in terror of you; I fear your laws.”
(Ps. 119:119-120)

O Lord, let your **ear be attentive** to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today

Nehemiah 1:11, *ESV*

What does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, and to worship the Lord you God with all your heart and all your soul?

Deuteronomy 10: 12 (HCSB)



“Two of the great heroines of world literature, the first to teach humanity the moral limits of power.”

(Rabbi Sacks)

“Midwives of the Hebrews:” Shifrah and Puah

“

The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

— EXODUS 1:17



Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them.
— Exodus 1:21 (NASB®)



Yarmulke

- Yiddish and Tartar for “skullcap”
- Cover your head so that the fear of heaven may be upon you – Talmud Shabbat 156b
- A sign of respect for God to keep your head covered; not a commandment

Rav Huna, son of Rav Yehoshua, would not walk four cubits with an uncovered head. He said, “The Shekinah (Divine Glory) is over my head.”

(Kiddushin 31a)



1 Corinthians 11:4-16

Every man (husband) praying or prophesying having from his head hanging down shames his head.

But every woman (wife) praying or prophesying with her head uncovered shames her head. It is one and the same thing as having been shaved.

For if a woman (wife) is not covered, let her also have her hair cut, but if it is disgraceful for a woman (wife) to have her hair cut off or to be shaved, let her be covered.

A man (husband) should not be covered on the head, being the image and glory of God. But the woman (wife) is the glory of a man (husband).

For a man is not of a woman but a woman of a man.

Neither was a man created because of the woman but a woman because of the man.

Because of this the woman ought to have [a symbol of?] authority on her head because of the angels.

However, neither is woman without man or man without woman in the Lord.

For just as the woman is of the man, so also the man is through the woman.

But all things are of God.

Judge for yourselves: is it fitting for a woman to pray to God uncovered?

Does not nature herself teach you that if a man wears long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

But if a woman wears long hair it is a glory to her.

For the long hair has been given to her as a covering.

If anyone wants to argue about this, we have no such custom nor do the churches of God.