

Pach'ad Yitschaq: Isaac's Terror

If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, certainly now you would have sent me off empty-handed. But God has seen my affliction and my hard work, and He issued His verdict last night... The God of Abraham, and the gods of Nahor-the gods of their father -will judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac. – Genesis 31:42, 53 HCSB

Introduction:

Someone has said that the basis of action should be love and not fear. Theoretically that is true, but in practice it does not work out that way. There are legitimate fears.

Fear should not be allowed to run rampant through our lives so that it becomes such a devastating factor that it produces failure. However there really is such a thing as "healthy fear." So the problem is not getting rid of fear, but using it properly. For example:

1. It's very healthy to fear drinking before you drive.
2. Fear of ignorance causes you to seek an education.
3. Fear of poverty makes you work.
4. Fear of disease motivates you to practice healthy and sanitary living.
5. Fear of losing your job will inspire you to show up on time and do the best you know how to do.
6. Fear of failing a class will drive a student to spend extra time in the books.
7. Fear of losing our family inspires us to be faithful to them, work hard for them, and show them love on a daily basis.
8. There's real fear in walking across a busy street without using the crosswalk.
9. There's legitimate fear in driving your car at excessive speeds under any conditions, but particularly where the visibility is poor or the streets are slippery.

We must learn to distinguish those helpful fears from the harmful ones. When you can do that, fear is a friend. Until you learn to do it, however, fear can be an enemy.

The Bible teaches that the most healthful fear a human can cultivate is the fear of the Lord. Please turn to...

- [Proverbs 1:7 HCSB](#) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

In today's passage, we see one of God's names: Pach'ad Yitshaq. Pach'ad Yitshaq is one of God's names and it means "Isaac's Fear." Pach'ad can be literally translated "terror or dread."

In today's society, which seems hell-bent on glorifying individual freedom to the point of anarchy, the truth that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" is underappreciated. Turn to...

- [1 John 4:8 HCSB](#) The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- [1 John 4:16-18 HCSB](#) And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. (17) In this, love is perfected with us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; for we are as He is in this world. (18) There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears has not reached perfection in love.

People would much rather focus on "God is love." But this is only because they don't understand what true love is.

I love my children desperately. My love causes me to discipline them so they can grow up to be godly people. My love drives me to remove their privileges, to confine them to their rooms and yes – even spank them if need be. That is true love.

The Bible says

- [Proverbs 13:24 HCSB](#) The one who will not use the rod hates his son, but the one who loves him disciplines him diligently.

and

- [Proverbs 19:18 HCSB](#) Discipline your son while there is hope; don't be intent on killing him.

Adonai says that if a parent continues to fail in regard to discipline, the child will be ruined by it. We should base our parenting style on that of our Heavenly Father who is the perfect Parent. He allows suffering in our lives, but never more than is absolutely necessary and it is always for good. Consider the following verses...

- [Job 5:17-18 HCSB](#) See how happy the man is God corrects; so do not reject the discipline of the Almighty. (18) For He crushes but also binds up; He strikes, but His hands also heal.
- [Lamentations 3:32-33 HCSB](#) (32) Even if He causes suffering, He will show compassion according to His abundant, faithful love. (33) For He does not enjoy bringing affliction or suffering on mankind.
- [Hebrews 12:5-11 HCSB](#) And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: **My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly, or faint when you are reproved by Him; (6) for the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and punishes every son whom He receives. (7)** Endure it as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there whom a father does not discipline? (8) But if you are without discipline--which all receive--then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we had natural fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? (10) For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but He does it for our benefit, so that we can share His holiness. (11) No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

The Father caused Jesus to suffer and by that suffering gave us salvation.

- [Psalms 22:1 HCSB](#) For the choir director: according to "The Deer of the Dawn." A Davidic psalm. My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? *Why are You* so far from my deliverance and from my words of groaning?
- [Matthew 27:46 HCSB](#) At about three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "**Elí, Elí, lemá sabachtháni?**" that is, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**"

He caused Paul to suffer and by that gave us the New Testament.

- [Acts 9:16 HCSB](#) **I will certainly show him how much he must suffer for My name!"**

The Egyptians faced Pach'ad Yitschaq and died.

- [Exodus 15:3-11 HCSB](#) The LORD is a warrior; Yahweh is His name. (4) He threw Pharaoh's chariots and his army into the sea; the elite of his officers were drowned in the Red Sea. (5) The floods covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. (6) LORD, Your right hand is glorious in power. LORD, Your right hand shattered the enemy. (7) You overthrew Your adversaries by Your great majesty. You unleashed

Your burning wrath; it consumed them like stubble. (8) The waters heaped up at the blast of Your nostrils; the currents stood firm like a dam. The watery depths congealed in the heart of the sea. (9) The enemy said: "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil. My desire will be gratified at their expense. I will draw my sword; my hand will destroy them." (10) But You blew with Your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. (11) LORD, who is like You among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders?

Job advocated a godly dread and yet called upon Hashem for justice.

- **Job 13:7-11 HCSB** Would you testify unjustly on God's behalf or speak deceitfully for Him? (8) Would you show partiality to Him or argue the case in His defense? (9) Would it go well if He examined you? Could you deceive Him as you would deceive a man? (10) Surely He would rebuke you if you secretly showed partiality. (11) Would God's majesty not terrify you? Would His dread not fall on you?
- **Job 42:1-6 HCSB** Then Job replied to the LORD: (2) I know that You can do anything and no plan of Yours can be thwarted. (3) *You asked*, "Who is this who conceals *My* counsel with ignorance?" Surely I spoke about things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. (4) *You said*, "Listen now, and I will speak. When I question you, you will inform Me." (5) I had heard rumors about You, but now my eyes have seen You. (6) Therefore I take back *my words* and repent in dust and ashes.

The result? Adonai showed up and vindicated Job before the world.

- **Job 42:7 HCSB** After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has.

We need to understand that love does not preclude godly fear. Fear and love are two sides of the same coin. And both are God's name.