

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
OUR FEARS AND THE COMING KINGDOM.

Apologetics

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תְּרַחֵם יְהוָה אֶת־מִדַּת הַיָּדָם וְיִתֵּן מִוֶּשֶׁת וּבִוְשָׁה בִּיהְיֶה יְהוָה	Pro 29:25 The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe
1 John 4:18 Φόβος οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν τῇ ἀγάπῃ, ἀλλ' ἡ τελεία ἀγάπη ἕξω βάλλει τὸν φόβον, ὅτι ὁ φόβος κόλασιν ἔχει· ὁ δὲ φοβούμενος οὐ τετελείωται ἐν τῇ ἀγάπῃ	1John 4:18 There is no <u>fear in love</u> , but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love
Mt 6:33 Ζητεῖτε δὲ πρῶτον τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην αὐτοῦ, καὶ ταῦτα πάντα προστεθήσεται ὑμῖν	Mt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. "THY KINGDOM COME!"

- What are we praying for?
- **Luke 17:20-21** "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."
 - → **Mt 3:2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- **1 Thes 1:9-10** For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come
 - **2Pt 3:10-11** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

0.2. FEARS AND LIFE

0.2.1. FEARS IN RELIGION

- the fear of God (faith, religion) → a *good* and necessary fear → expelling lesser fears that tend to obsess our mind (**Pro 1:7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (יִרְאַת יְהוָה רֵאשִׁית דַּעַת))

- **Luke 1:73-74** he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
- the principal (evil) fear: DEATH → **Heb 2:14-15** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery (ἐνοχοι ἦσαν δουλείας).

0.2.2. FEARS IN PSYCHOLOGY

- 76 types of fears

[*The Encyclopedia of Phobias, Fears, and Anxieties*] Fears, phobias, anxieties, and PANIC, often used inappropriately as interchangeable terms, in fact have distinct meanings. Fear is considered specifically as an appropriate response to a concrete, real, knowable danger. Anxiety usually refers to a fear of uncertain origin; the individual may not know why he is afraid. A phobia is an intense, irrational fear directly associated with specific events or situations that is out of proportion to the potential danger, cannot be explained or reasoned away, is largely beyond voluntary control, and leads to avoidance of the feared situation. Panic refers to a sudden upsurge of acute, intense fear, often associated with frantic attempts to escape. Panic is extreme fear, with all the symptoms of fear intensified.

- guilty fear (conscience)

0.3. FEARS AND DESIRES

- Don not settle for anything less than you can do, MAKE YOUR LIFE A MASTERPIECE...
- expecting HAPPINESS → fulfillment; safety;
- expecting FUN, entertainment

1. FEAR OF CORRUPTION, CONSPIRACY, CATASTROPHE

1.1. SORTS OF CORRUPTION

- Types of corruption include grand, political, corporate and systemic corruption. Other types of corruption include petty and administrative corruption.¹
- PERSONAL
 - physical → sickness, death
 - spiritual → **Ps 51:5(7)** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me
- NATURE → **Isa 24:3-6** The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered; for the LORD has spoken this word. ⁴ The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish. ⁵ The earth lies defiled (תִּפְּסָה) under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶ Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.

(4 Zem smúti a vysychá, svet chradne a vädne, ...5 Zem poškvrnili jej obyvatelia, tí, čo prestupovali zákony, prekračovali ustanovenia, porušovali večnú zmluvu. 6 Preto kľatba zožiera zem, pykajú tí, čo na nej bývajú; preto zhoreli obyvatelia zeme, ľudí zostalo málo.)

- POLITICAL → **Ps 82:1-4** God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: ² "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah ³ Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. ⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." (Postavil sa Boh v zhromaždení bohov, uprostred bohov súdi: 2 Dokedy chcete súdiť nespravodlivo a nadŕžať bezbožníkom? 3 Prisúďte právo utláčanému a sirote, poníženému a chudobnému vymáhajte spravodlivosť. 4 Ochráňte utláčaného, chudobného, vytrhnite ho z moci bezbožníkov!)
- CULTURAL → **1 John 2:16** For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions- is not from the Father but is from the world
- → idolatry

¹ <https://www.reference.com/world-view/types-corruption-c34d0367f80ba594> (25-Nov-21)

- → inuring people to monstrosities; abominations; unnatural sexual behaviour...
- **ECCLESIASTICAL** → **Mt 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet"
- "4 Ms"

1.2. SORTS OF CONSPIRACY

world domination(?)

reaction to CONTROL →

→ Fear of being manipulated; dominated; abused...

- **POLITICAL** → parties; revolutions;
- **ECONOMIC** → financial groups;
- **RELIGIOUS** → false beliefs about spiritual reality... (lack of biblical knowledge)

[CHAMBERS *My Utmost*] Cut yourself off from prying personal interest in your own spiritual symptoms and consider bare-spirited the tragedy of God, and instantly the energy of God will be in you.

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1.2.1. ORIGINS OF CONSPIRATIONAL THINKING

- "...the twenty-first century is facing a pandemic of credulous thinking."²
- **the worst conspiracies are those in which we ourselves willingly participate** ... silence on certain themes; cultural
- → we LOVE being FLATTERED... → lies about our qualities... (FREUD →)
- → we are too SELF-CONFIDENT about our ability to discern lies...
- → the meaning of life is TO BE HAPPY...
- → Too much is being ascribed to human ability and possibility... (Marx: the highest being for man is man...)
- → The **lack of the fear of GOD** creates gap where the fear of MAN thrives.

1.3. SORTS OF CATASTROPHE

- **NATURAL DISASTERS** → droughts; blizzards; tornadoes; floods; earthquakes; volcanoes; tsunamis; comets/meteors/asteroids; climate change(?)
- **WARS** → international; civil; local; world...
- **PANDEMICS** → new types of diseases...
- **PERSONAL** →
- **physical** → car accident; fire; random shooting; terrorism
- **spiritual Matthew 7:26-27** And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

2. NO FEARS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

COVID conspiracies proliferate on social media. If your Facebook feed looks anything like mine, what's puzzling is the fact that people who are drawn to these conspiracy theories tend to promote them rather indiscriminately—to the point where a "Plandemic" video shared one day placing blame on the government, is followed up by a meme the next day attributing it to Bill Gates and then followed up a day after that with a link to British conspiracy extraordinaire David Icke's interview about 5G towers. It can't be Dr. Fauci and Gates and 5G. So, what's going on here?³

2.1. NO CORRUPTION IN THE KINGDOM

- → immortality

² Thompson Damian, *Counterknowledge*, New York: W. W. Norton & Company

³ <https://humanities.utah.edu/perspectives/2020/your-guide-to-covid-conspiracies.php> (25-Nov-21)

- → new heaven, new earth **2Pt 3:13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells
- → **Isaiah 65:17** "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind
- → **Isaiah 2:4** He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore

2.2. NO CONSPIRACIES IN OR AGAINST THE KINGDOM

2.2.1. BIBLICAL THINKING ABOUT CONSPIRACY

- the defense: KNOWING GOD and his power; spiritual SELF-KNOWLEDGE; BELIEVE IN THE PROVIDENCE!
- **Isa 8:12-13** "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. ¹³ But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. BELIEVE IN TRUTH!
- **2Thes 2:11-12** Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. BE A FRIEND OF JESUS!
- **Luke 12:2-5** Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops. ⁴ "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

2.3. NO CATASTROPHIES IN THE KINGDOM

- PERSONAL SAFETY → **Mt 10:30-31** But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.
- **John 16:33** In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.
- END OF DISASTERS → eternal Kingdom
- **Rev 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more
- **Rev 21:4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.
- **Rev 22:5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever
- **Daniel 2:44** And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,
- WARS → **James 4:1-2** What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask

3. TO REMEMBER

- The fear of God liberates from the fear of men.
- The Kingdom of God gives victory over craven fears even now.
- The coming Kingdom will be completely free of all possible threats and fears we are familiar with today.