

# *Parshah Insights 2021*

## ***Parshah: Ki Tavo***

(Deuteronomy 26:1 – 29:8)

**Q: What is the theme of this *parshah*?**

**A:** *Fear of God*



### Leviticus 25:17

*ki Teitzei*: “You shall not wrong one another,  
*ki Tavo* but you shall fear your God,  
 for I am Adonai your God.”

### Fear of God Precedes Respect for Others:

*2<sup>nd</sup>* ***Ki Teitzei*** = When you go out [to war]  
*1<sup>st</sup>* ***Ki Tavo*** = When you come in [to the Land]




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**Genesis 22:12** He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

**Exodus 18:21** “Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.”

**2 Samuel 23:3-4** The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: “When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.”

**Psalms 36:1** Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes.

**Psalms 55:19** God will give ear and humble them, He who is enthroned from of old, because they do not change and do not fear God.

**Proverbs 3:7** Be not wise in your own eyes. Fear Adonai, and turn away from evil.

**Proverbs 9:10** <sup>1</sup> The fear of Adonai is the beginning of  
<sup>2</sup> wisdom, and the <sup>3</sup> knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

**Proverbs 14:26-27** In the fear of Adonai one has strong  
confidence, and his children will have a refuge. The fear  
of Adonai is a fountain of life, that one may turn away  
from the snares of death.

**Proverbs 19:23** The fear of Adonai leads to life, and  
whoever has it rests satisfied. He will not be visited by  
harm.

**Isaiah 8:12-13** “Do not call conspiracy all that this peo-  
ple calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor  
be in dread. But Adonai of hosts, Him you shall honor as  
holy. Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.

**2 Corinthians 7:1** Since we have these promises, be-  
loved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of  
body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the  
fear of God.

# Fear of God = Awareness of God

*You have to know that you're in this world for one reason only – to become more and more aware of Hashem. That's why you're alive right now!*

☞ R' Avigdor Miller

## Deuteronomy 28:47

[And this will befall you] **because** you did not serve Adonai your God with joy and with a good heart, from an abundance of everything.

י ת ת י

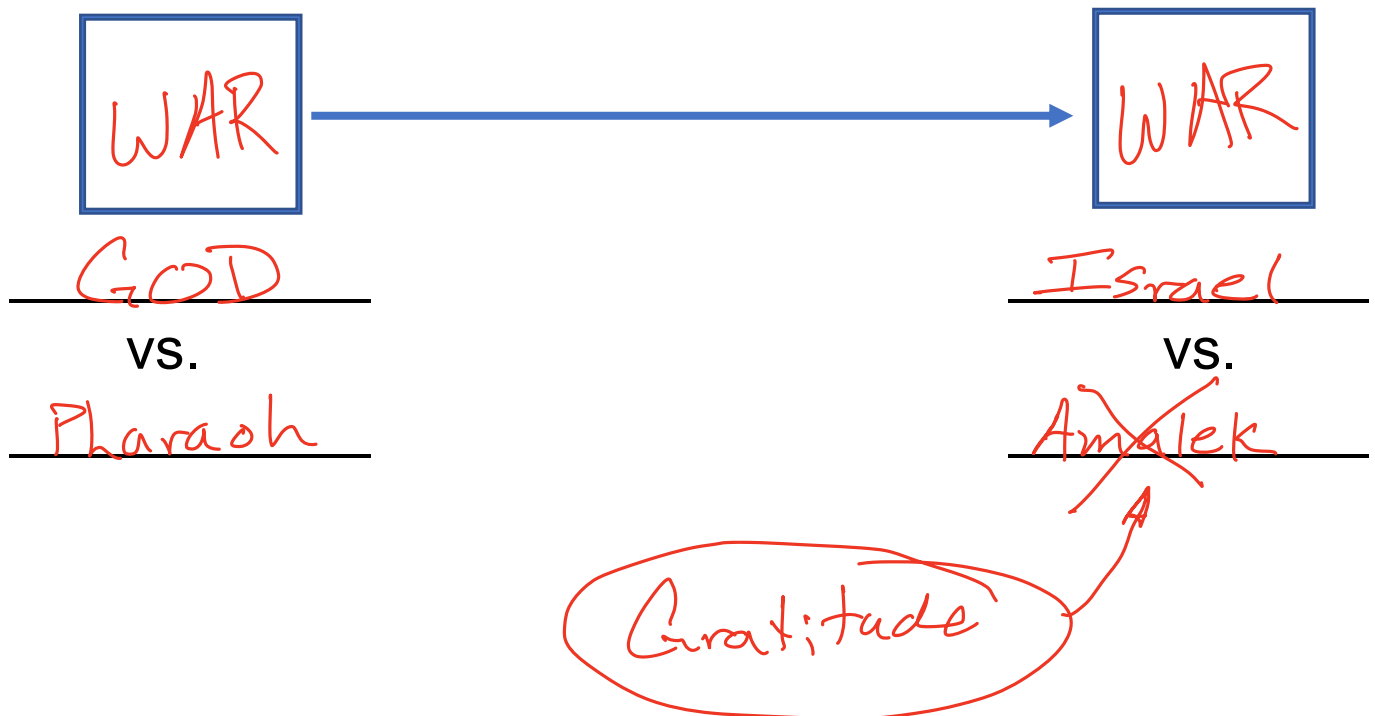
And all this will befall you **instead of** you serving Adonai with joy and with a good heart.

## Deuteronomy 28:58

If you are not careful to do all the words of this Torah that are written in this book, **that you may fear** this glorious and **awesome** name, Adonai your God, then Adonai will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting.

### *Parshah Beshalach*

Exodus 13:17 – 17:16



## Exodus 17:7-8

And he called the name of the place **Massah** and **Merivah**, because of the **quarreling** [רִיב, *riv*] of the people of Israel, and because they **tested** [נִסָּה, *nasah*] Adonai by saying, **“Is Adonai among us or not?”** Then Amalek came and fought with Israel ...

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### Discussion Questions:

- Why is fear of God so little talked about among believers today?
- Read and discuss the additional verses concerning the fear of God in the NOTES section below.
- 1 John 4:18 states: *“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”* How do we reconcile this verse with all the passages that command us to fear God?
- What is the dangerous question that Israel asked at the waters of Massah and Meribah? Have you ever asked this question when you shouldn't have?

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## NOTES:

**2 Samuel 23:1-2** Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The Spirit of Adonai speaks by me; His word is on my tongue..."

**Romans 1:21-23** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

**Exodus 17:2** Therefore the people **quarreled** [ריב, *riv*] with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you **quarrel** [ריב, *riv*] with me? Why do you **test** [נסה, *nasah*] Adonai?"

**Numbers 20:10-13** Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. And Adonai said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in Me, to uphold Me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." These are the waters of **Meribah**, where the people of Israel quarreled with Adonai, and through them He showed Himself holy.

### FEAR OF GOD (Additional Verses)

**Deuteronomy 17:18-19** And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this torah, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear Adonai his God by keeping all the words of this Torah and these statutes, and doing them.

**Deuteronomy 31:12-13** "Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear Adonai your God, and be careful to do all the words of this Torah, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear Adonai your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

**Joshua 4:23-24** "For Adonai your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as Adonai your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up for us until we passed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of Adonai is mighty, that you may fear Adonai your God forever."

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

**1 Peter 2:17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**Revelation 14:6** Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

**Revelation 19:5-6** And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, small and great." Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns!"