

Scripture Reading

Job 40:15-18 Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox.16 Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly.17 He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.18 His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron. 19 He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him. 20 Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play. 21 He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens. 22 The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about. 23 Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth. 24 He taketh it with his eyes: his nose pierceth through snares.

What Really Scares You!

I have a feeling that something does!

What scares us in this world

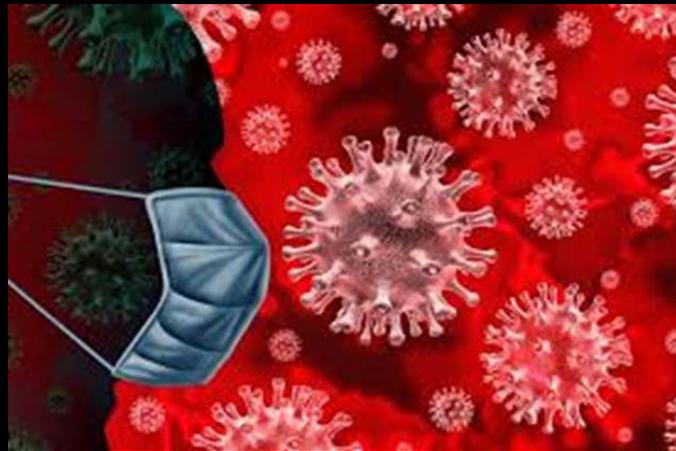
- Some are obvious while others may not be
- There are many predators in this world
- There has always been predators in the world even in the early days
- Job 40:15-18 Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox.

BEHEMOTH
"He is the chief of the ways of God" Job 40:19





What
Scares Us in
this World?



God said to man in the garden

- Gen 9:2-4 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.³ Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.⁴ But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Maybe it is not predators but the unknown that gives you the most fear

- What if I lose my job
- What if I can't make my payments and lose my house or my car
- What if my mate runs off with someone else
- What if my house burns
- What if someone close to me dies & I am alone
- What if I get COVID or have a terminal illness
- What if, what if, what if, what if, what if
- Yes it is possible for all these things to happen if not today, maybe tomorrow

Men can be serious predators to Men

- Often men can cause fear in others
- Afraid of what they can and will do to you
- **Prov 29:25** The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.
- **John 20:19** Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Don't be Afraid!

What is proper fear?

- Acts 5:5-11 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.
- Acts 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

It is the proper respect we give to God!

Without respect for God, we miss the mark

Rom 3:12-18 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 **There is no fear of God before their eyes.**



What happens to them

Rom 3:19-24 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

An Eternal Perspective: The Cure for Fear *2 Cor. 4:16–5:11*

5:1 For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For this reason we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed even when putting off [our earthly home] we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened--not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

The major point of these verses. Look at the words used to describe a man's earthly body and what accompanies it:

- Tent, Earthly, Groaning, Burdened, Mortal

Now consider the words used to describe the body that is to come:

- Building, From God, Eternal, In the heavens, Further clothed

An Eternal Perspective: The Cure for Fear *2 Cor. 4:16–5:11*

Look at verse 5:

He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee

Paul says, “Do you believe that God is preparing for you an eternal life with Him in glorified bodies? If you do, then why worry about what might happen to this temporary earthly tent you now inhabit?”

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 because we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

We must never be dominated or controlled by fear. The eternal perspective cures us of fear.

An Eternal Perspective: Stimulus to the Right Fear *2 Cor. 4:16 – 5:11*

- Some fears are wrong, while other fears are right. We should not fear earthly persecution. We should fear God!
- There is a right fear. Fear the one who can throw both body and soul in hell. Do not depend on a false sense of security.
- As Paul tells us in verse 9 of our text, this fear has a good effect on us, “Rather than being afraid to do anything, “We make it our aim to please Him!”
- If we focus on this life, if we focus on the temporal realities of this world, what is our aim?
 - **We make it our aim to avoid pain and suffering.**
 - **We make it our aim to exalt ourselves.**
 - **We make it our aim to make our lives secure.**
- But if we have an eternal perspective, we make it our aim to please Him. An eternal perspective produces the right fear.

Walking by Faith and Not by Sight 2 Cor. 4:

7 We walk by faith not by sight.

Agapius:

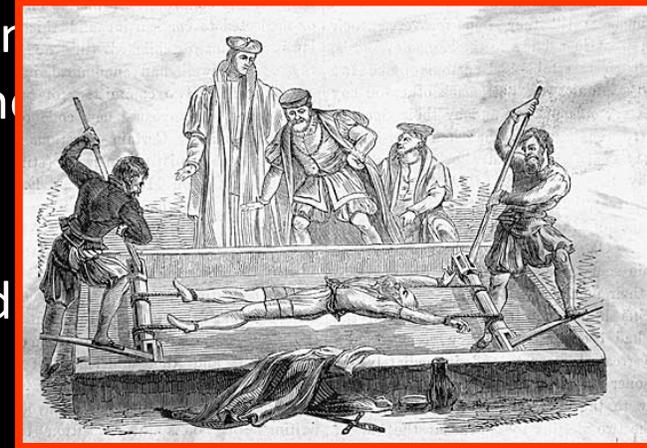
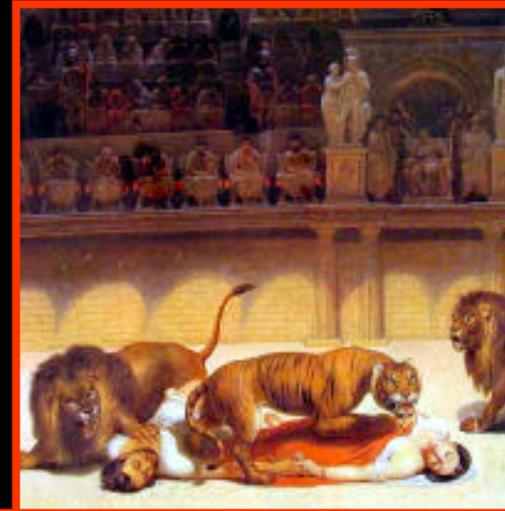
He was brought to the arena with a murderer to be cast to wild animals. The emperor gave clemency to the murderer. When the Christian refused to accept liberty by renouncing his faith, he rushed against a bear let loose upon him. After being mauled by the bear, he was taken to prison. Surviving for one day, stones were bound to his feet, and he was thrown into the sea.

Alpheus:

He was scourged and scraped with iron hooks and severe bonds. He received different tortures on the rack, having his feet stretched a night and a day to the fourth hole in the stocks. At length, he was beheaded. (350)

Apollonia:

They seized this elderly woman, beat her jaws, and broke out all her teeth. They built a fire and threatened to burn her alive unless she would repeat their impious expressions. She appeared to shrink a little, but when allowed to go, she suddenly sprang into the fire and was consumed. (258)



You want to live without fear

1 John 4:16-19 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.18

There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casteth out fear:** because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love him, because he first loved us.

It will pay to fear this one

- Matt 10:28 And **fear not** them which kill the body, but are **not able to kill the soul**: but rather **fear him** which **is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**.