

## THE FEAR OF ISAAC

**Genesis 31:42** Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and **the fear of Isaac**, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked *thee* yesternight.

[Gill] **Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me**, □ One and the same God is meant, who was the God of his father Isaac, and before him the God of Abraham, and now the fear of Isaac, whom he feared and served with reverence and godly fear, being at this present time a worshipper of him: now Jacob suggests, that unless his father's God had been on his side, and had protected and preserved him, as well as before blessed and prospered him:

[Calvin] The expression "the fear of Isaac," is to be taken passively for the God whom Isaac revered; just as, on account of the reverence due to him, he is called the "fear and the dread" of his people.

[Clarke] The fear of Isaac - It is strange that Jacob should say, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, when both words are meant of the same Being. The reason perhaps was this; Abraham was long since dead, and God was his unalienable portion for ever. Isaac was yet alive in a state of probation, living in the fear of God, not exempt from the danger of falling; therefore God is said to be his fear, not only the object of his religious worship in a general way, but that holy and just God before whom he was still working out his salvation with fear and trembling, fear lest he should fall, and trembling lest he should offend.

**Genesis 31:53** The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob swore by **the fear of his father Isaac**.

[Gill] **and Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac**; that is, by the true God his father Isaac feared, served, and worshipped: or "but Jacob"<sup>1</sup>, etc. which seems plainly to suggest, that the God whom Laban called upon to be a judge between them, should they break covenant, and swore by, and he whom Jacob swore by, were different; each swore by their own deities.

**Isaiah 8:13** Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

Having established that "the fear of Isaac" is **a Person**, who is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, one can proceed to the verses in the Bible which declare what "the fear of the Lord" is declared to be.

**Proverbs 1:7** **The fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 15:16** Better *is* little with **the fear of the LORD** than great treasure and trouble therewith.

**Proverbs 15:33** *The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.*

**Psalms 19:9** *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.*