

STUDY 3

Genesis 42:18

Then Joseph said to them the third day, “Do this and live, for I fear God:”

Read the context: Genesis 42:1-38 (If you read it aloud at a normal pace, it will take about 6 minutes.)

In a Strong's concordance, look up the name for God used in this verse. (If you've never done that, look up the word *God*; find this reference, Genesis 42:18; to the right of the verse is a number, write down the number #_____. In the back of the concordance are 2 sections keyed to the numbers; the first section contains the Hebrew words for the Old Testament and the second section contains the Greek words for the New Testament. Look up the number in the Hebrew section and write down the English transliteration of the Hebrew word: _____.)

Write the definition of that

word: _____

This is the same name used for God in Genesis 1:1 and in the whole creation account. This is the Creator God, the Supreme Being of the universe.

Why do you think Joseph said to his brothers: “I fear God”? What was that intended to convey?

If someone fears God (assuming it is the true God), should that give you confidence in them?

Why or why not?

How do you think the fear of God affected Joseph's view of life and all that had happened to him?

The fear of God provided safeguards against how he thought about his past and it governed all of his actions in the present and future. The fear of God is a reflection of the sovereignty of God and our trust in that sovereignty. Do we truly believe that He is in control over our lives and that He has personal, intimate knowledge of all that has happened to us and all that we ourselves do?

How should the fear of God affect your life?

List specific areas of your life which you need to submit to the fear of God, both the things that have happened to you or things that have been done to you and the action areas of your life, the things you do to others, how you treat others, and the plans you make.

For perspective on hurtful things that have been done to you and your consequent course of action, read Deuteronomy 32:35, Psalm 94:1, Romans 12:9 and Hebrews 10:30.

To help rein in and govern your thoughts and actions, read II Chronicles 16:9, Job 31:4, Job 34:21, Proverbs 5:21, Proverbs 15:3, Jeremiah 16:17, Jeremiah 32:19, Hosea 7:2, Hebrews 4:13.

Add to your Fear of the Lord list what you learned from today.