

- In Spite of Appearances God is in Control

C.S. Lewis one place very happily says you will never tame the lions in your life, unless you let God be the untamed lion in your life. In other words, unless you fear God, unless you know what he has done, unless you are in awe about what he has done for you, you're going to be afraid of a lot of other things.

- How is your character?
- How consistent is your walk with Jesus?
- Who/what do you fear?
- What are you praying for/towards?
- Is the God of Daniel your God?
- Am I tempted to assimilate/separate/or engage as salt and light (settle down/pray for and work for the prosperity of the place you have been sent)”?
- Will I obey God’s law...or what laws am I basing my life on
— Cost of Discipleship — Costly Obedience

- Fear God
- Be Faithful
- Trust
- Be Consistent, Disciplined, Directional, Above Reproach
- Be Still

- Pray (3 Times a Day)
- Scripture
- Righteousness exposes corruption

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7–11 (NIV)

- Cyrus the Great (559-530)
 - Cambyses (529-522)
 - Darius 1 (522-486)
- Babylon Falls to Persia (539) (Darius the Mede (539))
 - Cyrus Edict (538)
 - Rebuilding of Temple (536-516)
 - Zechariah (522-506) Haggai (520) Nehemiah (444-430) Malachi (465) Ezra (457) Joel (450)
 - Esther (478)
- Alexander the Great (356-232)
- Ptolemaic rule (323-198)
- Seleucidian rule (198-63) (begins ok...but...)
 - Antiochus IV desecrates the temple (175-163)
 - Mattathias (166)
 - Judas Maccabeus (166-160)
 - Rededication of Temple (166-164)—Hanukkah
 - Religious Freedom Gained (163)
 - Political Freedom Attempted (162-160)
 - Jonathan (160-143)
- Rome