

God calls Jeremiah to be his prophet, a plan which God foreknew and appointed, despite Jeremiah's doubts at his fitness.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah: 1:4-10

The word of the LORD came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you,
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,

says the LORD."

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; *
let me never be ashamed.

² In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; *
incline your ear to me and save me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, *
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, *
my confidence since I was young.

⁶ I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.

God is the only being worth human fear, though our relationship with God is not founded on fear, our awe and respect fuels the amazing love we seek to offer back to God through the love he shows in Jesus.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: 12:18-29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

The Word of the Lord.