> But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.
> — *1 Samuel 12:24*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Samuel
Topics: awe, heart, miracles, serving

Interpretation:
The message of *1 Samuel 12:24* is centered around the need to fear God and serve God with sincerity and devotion. This Bible passage reminds us to acknowledge the great things God has done for us and around us and to respond to our gratitude by living a life dedicated to His will.

When this verse tells us to fear God, it is in the same *way that children fear their parents*. It speaks to our relationship with *our Creator*, submission, and adoration. Fearing God with all our hearts means having His presence and guidance in every aspect of our lives and making decisions that are in line with His values.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
> — *1 Samuel 16:7*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Samuel
Topics: beauty, heart, pride

Interpretation:

This verse takes place in the story of *Samuel* choosing King *David*. Samuel, in search of a successor to King *Saul*, visits Jesse's family and meets his seven sons. Samuel is attracted to Eliab, the oldest and tallest son, but God tells Samuel not to judge by appearances but to look within.

This verse presents an important dual perspective: on the one hand, the need to overcome the limitations of superficial appearances, and on the other hand, the importance of the heart in our relationship with God and in life in general.

It is easy to judge people by how they look on the outside. But it is important to remember that while appearances may be attractive, they are not what best defines a person. As the verse says, *God looks at the heart, that is, at one's goodness, character, values, and virtues*.

Often in our quest for happiness and self-fulfillment we focus on meeting standards of beauty and material success, but it is important to remember the inner beauty that every person possesses and that cannot be measured by physical, social or cultural standards.

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> There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.
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> *— 1 Samuel 2:2*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Samuel
Topics: God, Holiness, worship

Interpretation:
The first message of this verse is that there is no one like God. He is unique in His essence, and there is no one who can compare to Him. *God is holy* in this sense. He is different from everything else in the universe.

There are false gods in our world that compete with the true God. These gods may be pleasure, possessions, fame, wealth, among other things. But none of them can compare to God, the creator and preserver of all things.

It is important to remember that God's uniqueness does not lie in His power or authority, but in His nature. God is holy, just, and loving, but He is also omnipotent and omniscient. He is not limited by the

laws of physics or biology, *He can do whatever He wants because He is God*.

The second message of the verse is that *God is our refuge*. This means that God is our safe place when things go wrong. When we have problems, we can turn to God, and He will help us. He will never leave us in trouble.

The psalmist *David* also talks about taking refuge in God in *Psalm 46:1-3*, which says, *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."*

The fact that God is our refuge does not mean that we will not have problems in life. We all go through hardships and pain. But God is there to help us through those difficult times. He is our strength and the source of our courage.

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> The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.
> *— 1 Samuel 2:7*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Samuel
Topics: Almighty, dependence, humility, money, poverty

Interpretation:
In *1 Samuel 2:7* we are taught that God has absolute control over wealth and poverty. He is the one who enriches some and impoverishes others, who brings some low and exalts others. The biblical idea behind this verse is that God is sovereign and His providence extends to every aspect of our lives, including our financial situation.

God uses wealth and poverty as disciplines in the life of a believer to bring him to greater humility. On the other hand, God can also use wealth to bless and support the work of the gospel. However, we must always remember that it is not money that will bring us happiness and complete satisfaction, but the *presence of God in our lives*.

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