

# Deuteronomy 28:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

## Analysis

**If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book**—the phrase *šāmar la'āśôt* (שָׁמַר לַעֲשׂוֹת, 'observe to do') requires not just hearing but doing. **That thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD**—Hebrew *haššēm hannikbād wəhannôrā' hazzeh* (הַשֵּׁם הַנִּכְבֹּד וְהַנּוֹרָא הַזֶּה) uses 'THE NAME' (the Tetragrammaton YHWH) in all capitals, emphasizing God's covenant name.

This verse is the theological hinge: the curses result not from arbitrary divine cruelty but from refusing to fear God's 'glorious and fearful name.' The juxtaposition of *nikbād* (glorious) and *nôrā'* (fearful/awesome) captures the paradox of God's character—He is both attractive and terrifying, loving and holy. The phrase 'written in this book' refers to Deuteronomy itself, making obedience concrete and measurable.

## Historical Context

This verse was read publicly during covenant renewal ceremonies (Deuteronomy 31:11, Nehemiah 8). By the first century, Jews avoided pronouncing the divine name (YHWH) out of reverence, saying 'Adonai' instead. Jesus's use of 'I AM' (John 8:58) deliberately invoked this 'glorious and fearful name,' claiming divine identity.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does the fear of the Lord relate to obedience to His law?
2. What does it mean that God's name is both 'glorious' and 'fearful'?
3. In what ways does Christ embody the fullness of God's 'glorious and fearful name' (Philippians 2:9-11)?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵם	לֹא	תִּשְׁמֹר	לַעֲשׂוֹת	אֶת	כָּל	דִּבְרֵי
H518	H3808	<b>If thou wilt not observe</b>	<b>to do</b>	H853	H3605	<b>all the words</b>
		H8104	H6213			H1697
הַ	זֶה	הַ	בֵּסֵפֶר	הַ	וְהַנּוֹרָא	אֶת
<b>of this law</b>	H2063	<b>that are written</b>	<b>in this book</b>	H2088	<b>and fearful</b>	H853
H8451		H3789	H5612		H3372	
שֵׁם	הַנּוֹרָא	וְהַנּוֹרָא	הַ	אֵת	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ:
<b>name</b>	<b>this glorious</b>	<b>and fearful</b>	H2088	H853	<b>THE LORD</b>	<b>THY GOD</b>
H8034	H3513	H3372			H3068	H430

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 42:8** (Glory): I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.