

Our Jealous God!

Exodus 33:13 (NKJV) — 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.”

The way of our God

Exodus 20:1–6 (NKJV) — 1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

What we are to do

Rev 3: 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

I. Our God is a jealous God!

OUR GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD!

- A. This is one of the first and most important things he tells us about him
- B. He even tells us his name is jealous!

Exodus 34:11–14 (NKJV) — 11 Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

12 Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.

13 But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images

14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God)

- 1. You have been taught that by learning God's name you can know his ways. This lets us know that the way of God is never to have us put something in front of him.

WE MUST NEVER RESPECT ANYTHING MORE THAN OUR GOD!

- a. Why? Because he is jealous!

2. Look at verses 12 and 13. We are not to allow the world to get in front of him. In fact, John tells us the same thing;
1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV) — 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- C. In many places, we learn that God is a jealous God. He does not want us to create anything in the world that we will put on his level or above him. If we do he will become angry with us!

From the Torah

Deuteronomy 4:23–24 (NKJV) — 23 Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you. 24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Deuteronomy 6:13–15 (NKJV) — 13 You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. 14 You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you 15 (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

**WE MUST NEVER RESPECT ANYTHING MORE THAN OUR GOD!
TO PLACE ANYTHING BEFORE HIM IS TO PROVOKE HIM TO ANGER!**

Deuteronomy 32:16–17 (NKJV) — 16 They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. 17 They sacrificed to demons, not to God, *To gods* they did not know, *To new gods*, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.

Deuteronomy 32:21 (NKJV) — 21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by *those who are* not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

From the history books

Joshua 24:19–20 (NKJV) — 19 But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for He *is* a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. 20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good.”

BE CAREFUL NOT TO PROVOKE GOD TO ANGER!

From the prophets

Ezekiel 23:25–26 (NKJV) — 25 *I will set My jealousy against you.* And they shall deal furiously with you; They shall remove your nose and your ears, And your remnant shall fall by the sword; They shall take your sons and your daughters, And your remnant shall be devoured by fire. 26 They shall also strip you of your clothes And take away your beautiful jewelry.

Nahum 1:2 (NKJV) — 2 *God is jealous,* and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and *is* furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

From the Psalms

Psalms 78:58–59 (NKJV) — 58 For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, *And moved Him to jealousy* with their carved images. 59 When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel,

In the New Testament

1 Corinthians 10:21–22 (NKJV) — 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we *provoke the Lord to jealousy?* Are we stronger than He?

James 4:2–5 (NKJV) — 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "*The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously*"?

- D. From all these scriptures we can see that God is a jealous God. When he says this, he is saying if he has given you his love he demands absolute loyalty and commitment to him. If we substitute anything for him he will respond in unpleasant ways towards us because of our unfaithfulness.

**BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN YOU HIS LOVE,
HE DEMANDS ABSOLUTE LOYALTY AND COMMITMENT TO HIM**

- E. Consider carefully your ways!

1. Are you more committed about work, striving to be successful there?
 2. Are you more committed about your possessions, always trying to get more?
 3. Are you more committed your hobbies other things that distract you from your love of God?
 4. Are you more committed to knowing more about sports and other people's lives than you are about your God and your father?
 5. Are you more committed to what you want than what he wants?
- F. Isn't it funny, how we can find so much time to do the things we want to do without complaining and griping but when it comes to serving God we can find so many excuses to not do what God had asked us to?
1. We will go to a game and scream our heads off.
 2. We will stand out in the cold in the rain watching our team play.
 3. We will stand in line for hours to get tickets to a movie or concert or to get the next iPhone
 4. We will drive all the way the state line to get lottery tickets
 5. But to drive a few miles to church for communion, where are they?
- G. Some people become frustrated with the work of ministry and quit working altogether.
1. Some will even find other churches where other people are doing the work so they can sit down and feel good about themselves.
 2. Some people will seek other churches where they don't have to feel guilty about work they should be doing.
 3. Have you been provoking God to jealousy?

HAVE YOU BEEN PROVOKING GOD TO JEALOUSY?

- H. We have also learned from other scriptures God compares himself to a husband and us to his beloved wife. He expects us to be faithful to him!
1. His jealousy also means that he will protect us if we are faithful to honor him above all others.

Psalm 105:13–15 (NKJV) — 13 When they went from one nation to another, From *one* kingdom to another people, 14 He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, 15 Saying, “Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.”

- II. How should we respond to our jealous God?
How should we respond to our jealous God?

- A. What does Jesus say?
Matthew 22:35–38 (NKJV) — 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” 37 Jesus said to him, ‘You shall

love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is *the* first and great commandment.

THE FATHER WANTS TO BE FIRST IN YOUR HEART!

Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV) — 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

B. Paul said

Romans 12:11 (NIV84) — 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

1. No complaining about the work of the Lord or his people! Honor God at all times!
2. God sent pastors and teachers to keep people from making foolish mistakes. Sometimes we can be enthusiastic about the wrong things?

Romans 10:2 (NKJV) — 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

- a. Every church should be encouraging every member to become involved in building the kingdom of God!

IF YOU ARE COMFORTABLE IN A CHURCH AND NOT DOING SOMETHING TO MAKE IT BETTER, YOU COULD BE LACKING IN ZEAL AND PROVOKING OUR FATHER TO JEALOUSY!

- C. He expects us to be zealous for him. Zeal - great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of the advancement of God and His glory over and against substitutes.

Zeal - great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of the advancement of God and His glory over and against substitutes.

1. Because God loves us, and is jealous over us we are to have a zeal for him. His concern for us is great; ours for him must be great also.
2. We must be fully devoted to him. His purposes and his honor.

- D. A definition of zeal from Bishop J. C. Ryle author of the book Practical Theology

Zeal in religion is a burning desire to please God, to do His will, and to advance His glory in the world in every possible way. It is a desire which no man feels by nature— which the Spirit puts in the heart of every believer when he is converted— but which some believers feel so much more strongly than others that they alone deserve to be called 'zealous' men. . .

A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed

up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives, or whether he dies— whether he has health, or whether he has sickness— whether he is rich, or whether he is poor—whether he pleases man, or whether he gives offence— whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish— whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise— whether he gets honour, or whether he gets shame—for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it— he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn; and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a sphere for his zeal. If he cannot preach, work, and give money, he will cry, and sigh, and pray. . . If he cannot fight in the valley with Joshua, he will do the work of Moses, Aaron, and Hur, on the hill (Exodus 17: 9-13). If he is cut off from working himself, he will give the Lord no rest till help is raised up from another quarter, and the work is done. This is what I mean when I speak of 'zeal' in religion. (Practical Religion, 1959 ed., p. 130)

III. God rewards those that are zealous for him

GOD REWARDS THOSE THAT ARE ZEALOUS FOR HIM

- A. **Elijah** was zealous for the Lord
1 Kings 19:10 (NKJV) — 10 So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."
1. God honored his zeal and gave him a chariot of fire to take him up into heaven.
2 Kings 2:11 (NKJV) — 11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
2. Additionally, he was given the honor to stand with Moses on the Mountain of Transfiguration and talk to Jesus.
Matthew 17:3 (NKJV) — 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.
- B. **Phinehas** zeal caused God to give the priesthood to his descendents
Numbers 25:11–13 (NKJV) — 11 "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal.

12 Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; 13 and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.' ”

C. Paul

Acts 20:24 (NKJV) — 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

D. Now to all, and may the Elders hear and understand, it is a truth to be recognized that when people have sinned and repented often times they become more zealous for the Lord. Paul had this to say
2 Corinthians 7:10–11 (NKJV) — 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing *of yourselves*, *what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

E. God expects churches today to keep him first as the Scripture says and be the pillar and ground of the truth (1Timothy 3:15). He was upset when he wrote to the Laodicean church. The church of the end times. Like many churches of our day.

Revelation 3:14–21 (NKJV) — 14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

15 “I know your works, that you are **neither cold nor hot**. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My

throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

- F. How many of you today would consider yourself hot for Jesus? How many of you might consider yourself just lukewarm?
- G. A survey was done about people in church a few years ago and they found out the sad statistics...

- 10 percent couldn't be found
- 20 percent never prayed
- 25 percent never read the Bible
- 30 percent never attended services
- 40 percent never donated to the church
- 50 percent never went to Sunday School
- 80 percent never attended prayer meeting
- 90 percent never had family worship
- 95 percent never won a soul to Christ
- 100% plan to go to heaven!**

Too many people in church are lacking in zeal for God. I need to tell you this

JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE IN A CHURCH IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU ARE SAVED!

YOU HAD BETTER BE IN A CHURCH ZEALOUS ABOUT WORSHIPPING GOD!

- H. Because our God is a jealous God, he expects us to love him with all of our heart. To love him means to keep his commandments and to be zealous towards him.
 - 1. To be enthusiastic about serving him
 - 2. we are to place nothing above him
- I. What type of person have you been? Are you a person that has provoked God to jealousy and as a result you are not living the life that you are happy with?
- J. What type of person have you been? Are you a person that is always zealous in your worship of the Lord and provoking him to good words for your life?
- K. Regardless to the person you have been, know this today and do not provoke him to jealousy:
Exo 20: 5 For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
- L. Don't ruin the blessings for your family,

DO NOT PROVOKE THE LORD TO JEALOUSY

**BUT BE ZEALOUS FOR HIM
SO HE MAY BLESS YOU MIGHTILY**