

THE JEALOUSY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

King Solomon wrote, . . . *love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel* [unyielding, hard] *as the grave; its flames are flames of fire* [blazing], *a most vehement flame* (Song of Solomon 8:6b). As the King of Israel for approximately forty years, and having acquired seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines in his lifetime, Solomon was well acquainted with the devouring flames of man's jealousy on a daily basis. Man, throughout the generations, has yielded to this wicked and abusive sin. We become jealous of each other because of our looks, talents and gifts, personalities, health, families, husbands, children, relationships, our positions, possessions, wealth and any other thing that causes rivalry within us. The Word¹ of God gives us an escape from jealousy; whether it is destroying our souls from within or without. That escape is through our LORD,² *whose name is Jealous* (Exodus 34:14b), who is able to quench these vicious flames.

THEME SCRIPTURE

For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14).

¹ Word: God's spoken Word, the Bible (John 1:1, 14).

² LORD: self-Existent or Eternal, Jehovah the Lord.

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *jealousy*. _____

Dictionary Definition

Webster's New World dictionary meaning for *jealous* is: watchful in guarding, resentfully suspicious of a rival, resentfully envious, possessive, demanding, monopolizing, envious, mistrustful, doubting, apprehensive.

Dictionary.com defines *jealous* as feeling resentment against someone's rivalry, success, or advantages.

Biblical Definitions

The word *jealousy* in the Hebrew is *qanna* in the good sense it is zealous: In the bad sense it is envious.

Jealousy in the Greek is *zelos*, *zeloo* to have a warm feeling for or against: in a favorable sense: fervor, zeal, ardor; in an unfavorable one: enemy, malice, envy, indignation.

When speaking of God's jealousy, the word *jealousy* in the Hebrew and Greek has the same meaning as the word *zeal* throughout the Old and New Testaments. The words jealousy and zeal are used interchangeably to describe God's pure, righteous, protective and possessive love for us.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures concerning God's jealousy, and MEDITATE on them.

Exodus 20:3, 5 *You shall have no other gods before Me: 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.*

Exodus 34:14 *For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*

Deuteronomy 4:24 *For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 *You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you (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.*

Joshua 24:19, 20 *. . . He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. 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.*

Nahum 1:2 *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.*

II Corinthians 11:2 [Paul speaking] *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

3. REFER to the above passages, and WRITE briefly what God says about His jealousy and/or the result of it. MEDITATE on each word before you write anything.

Joshua 24:19, 20 Example: His jealousy is holy because He is holy. He won't forgive. He'll turn to hurt and consume those who forsake Him.

Exodus 20:3, 5 _____

Exodus 34:14 _____

Deuteronomy 4:24 _____

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 _____

Nahum 1:2 _____

II Corinthians 11:2 _____

As you can clearly see, unfaithfulness to God provokes Him to jealousy. We saw three specific characteristics of His jealousy.

1. It demands exclusive devotion to Him.
2. It delivers judgment to all those who oppose Him.
3. It vindicates His people.

SECTION II – Righteous Jealousy

The Zealous Phinehas

READ Numbers 25:1-13.

1. What did the Israelites do to provoke God's jealousy (vv. 1-3)? _____

How did God respond to their sin? _____

2. What did God command Moses to do (vv. 4, 5)? _____

What did Moses do? _____

3. Who was Phinehas (vv. 6-8)? _____

What did he do? _____

4. How many people died in the plague (v. 9)? _____

5. What did God say concerning the zeal of Phinehas (vv. 10, 11)? _____

6. What rewards did God give Phinehas and why (vv. 12, 13)? _____

Christ's Zeal for the Temple

READ John 2:13-17.

1. Why did Jesus go up to Jerusalem (v. 13)? _____

2. What did He find (v. 14)? _____

3. In His righteous anger, what did He do (v. 15)? _____

4. In His holy zeal for the Temple, what did He say to the money changers (v. 16)? _____

5. What did the disciples remember was written about Him in Psalm 69:9 (v. 17)? _____

PERSONAL

READ I Corinthians 6:19, 20. What does God say about your body? _____

What are you to do in *your* temple? _____

Is there anything in your temple that would provoke God's jealous anger? _____

LOOK DEEPER

Paul's Zeal for the Church
READ II Corinthians 11:1-4.

How does Paul define his jealousy for the church (v. 2)? _____

What does he fear (vv. 3, 4)? _____

SECTION III – Man's Jealousy vs. God's Jealousy

Man's Vicious Jealousy

Man experiences two sorts of jealousy, and one of them is a vice. This is a vicious attitude that rises from uncontrolled covetousness, expressing itself in envy, malice and hatred. This jealousy stems from pride and has the potential to shred the strongest heart.

READ the following Scriptures and DESCRIBE man's jealousy and envy.

Job 5:2 _____

Proverbs 14:30 _____

Proverbs 27:4 _____

Song of Solomon 8:6 _____

James 3:13-16 _____

Godly Jealousy

The other jealousy is moral and wholesome. It is the *zeal* to protect and encourage a love relationship or avenge it when broken. It is not the blind reaction of wounded pride, but like the fruit of marital affection. It is a virtue whereby one will develop a passion to save and restore the relationship no matter what the cost. It manifests itself in a total devotion and constant fervor to serve the one it loves. The Scriptures consistently view God's jealousy as being of this latter kind. It is His zeal to love, protect and restore His church.

God wants His zeal/jealousy manifested in you. READ the following Scriptures, and WRITE the characteristics or actions that God's zeal/jealousy produced in His people and should produce in you.

Romans 12:9-13 _____

I Corinthians 9:18-23 _____

I Corinthians 14:12 _____

II Corinthians 9:1, 2 _____

Galatians 4:18 _____

Philippians 3:13, 14 _____

3

SECTION IV – The Zeal of the LORD of Hosts

READ Isaiah 9:6, 7.

What did Isaiah prophecy the pure, protective, possessive zeal of the LORD would perform? _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (Exodus 34:14).

*For the LORD your God is a consuming fire,
a jealous God.*

Deuteronomy 4:24

³ press: pursue, to follow after, agonize; implying to be persecuted.

NOTES _____

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,

His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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