

The Jealousy of God – Part I

Exodus 20:1–6

Series: Jealousy of God

Text: Exodus 20:1-6

Title: “a jealous God”

Date: November 2, 2025

Context:

Exodus 19:3–6 Now Moses went up to God, and Yahweh called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: ⁴‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you up on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵‘So now then, if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

1. The _____ Between God and Israel (v.1-2).

Exodus 20:1–2 Then God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

2. The _____ for Israel (v.3-4).

Exodus 20:3–4 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

Commandment #1: Israel shall not have any gods before or besides Yahweh.

Commandment #2: Israel shall not manufacture for themselves any idol or likeness of anything in all of creation to worship.

3. The _____ from God (v.5-6)

Exodus 20:3–4 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

“for (surely, indeed) I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God”

Three Fundamental Questions:

A. Why does it _____ to know that God is a jealous God?

Exodus 34:13–14 “But rather, you are to tear down their altars and shatter their sacred pillars and cut down their Asherim for you shall not worship any other god, for Yahweh, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God

The name in Exodus associated with God predominantly up to this point has been His covenant name “Yahweh” which was dramatically emphasized in Ex. 3:14.

Point: understanding the jealousy of God matters because it conveys a fundamental aspect of His _____ He wants His people to know about Him.

B. What does it _____ that Yahweh is jealous?

Negatively: it is used to describe the evil desires of man to harm or act sinfully because of envy for someone/something they want (Proverbs 14:30; 27:4; Ecc. 4:4).

Positively: it is used to describe the strong and intense desire of man to do what is right because something wrong has taken place against something he values greatly (usually translated “zeal” or “zealous” in these contexts usually; Psalm 69:9; 119:139).

Definition: the jealousy of God is His commitment and inclination to act on behalf of His glory in protecting, realizing, and furthering that which rightfully belongs to Him.

Two expressions of God's jealousy:

A. God's acts in _____ against those who hate Him when He should be loved (v.5b).

Exodus 20:5 ...for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me

When you look through the pages of the O.T. many times the judgement of God upon the wicked, particularly the wickedness of Israel, His jealousy is referenced as the reason. The jealousy of God for His name is behind His judgment on His enemies (1 Kgs. 14:22; Isa. 42:13).

Notice the focus of God's justice is on "those who hate Me." "hate" – to scorn, to decrease in status; to view as an enemy.

Psalm 78:58–59 For they provoked Him with their high places And aroused His jealousy with their graven images. ⁵⁹God heard and was filled with wrath And greatly rejected Israel

B. Showing His _____ towards those who love Him (v.6).

Exodus 20:6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Examples:

- The jealousy of God was behind the deliverance of Jerusalem as Hezekiah and Isaiah called for God to save them from the Assyrian army under Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:31).
- The jealousy of God was behind the promise of the Messiah to come and the Messiah's future return to establish His kingdom forever and make all things right (Isaiah 9:7).
- The jealousy of God was behind the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylonian captivity back to the promise Land (Ezekiel 39:25; Zech. 8:2).

Zechariah 1:14–17 So the angel who was speaking with me said to me, “Call out, saying, ‘Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion. “But I am very wrathful with the nations who are at ease; for I was only a little wrathful, but they helped increase the calamity.” ‘Therefore thus says Yahweh, “I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it,” declares Yahweh of hosts, “and a measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem.” “Again, call out, saying, ‘Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “My cities will again overflow with good, and Yahweh will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.” ’ ”

Same idea is repeated in Zech. 8:1-8: God shows lovingkindness towards His people in His jealousy for His glory.

C. _____ is Yahweh a jealous God?

What is our relationship to God? The answer is in three words in v.5 “Yahweh, your God.”

Isaiah 42:8 “I am Yahweh, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.

Another similar passage in Isa. 48:11.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 “Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one! ⁵“You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

As John Piper puts it: “God commands our hearts to Him.”

Point: God is jealous because His glory is _____ and He deserves to be loved, obeyed, and worshiped supremely by all creation.

Conclusion:

- The jealousy of God for His glory should cause _____ in the one who hates Him because He will pursue justice for His name.
- The jealousy of God for His glory should _____ those who love Him, because He is glorified in showing His lovingkindness to those who love Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the concept of God being jealous a misunderstood and hated or rejected by so many people today?
2. Read Exodus 20:1-2. Is it fair to say that those who reject the jealousy of God do not truly believe what God says about Himself as true? Why?
3. How does the jealousy of God express itself according to Exodus 20:5-6? What does two ways show about the nature of God's jealousy?
4. We concluded the sermon focusing on the response to God's jealousy of the one who hates God and of the one who loves God, what should the responses of each group be and why?
5. How should knowing that God is jealous affect the Christian life?



Blanks: Relationship, Rules, Reason, matter, nature, mean, justice, lovingkindness, Why, central, fear, encourage.