Our God is a “Jealous God”

The scriptures plainly teach that our God is a “Jealous God”.

After the children of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, they came to Mount Sinai.

It was at Mount Sinai that God gave them the Law of Moses.

Most of this Law was delivered to Moses by God.

However, the 10 commandments were spoken directly to the people by God.
A JEALOUS GOD

Listen to the 2nd commandment.

Ex 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or 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 on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

A JEALOUS GOD

After Moses broke the tablets of stone containing the 10 commandments, God called him up on Mt Sinai to write them on new tablets of stone.

Listen to how God describes Himself to Moses on this occasion.

Ex 34:12 "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."
A JEALOUS GOD

- Ex 34:13 "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),
- God is such a jealous God that He is known by that name!

A JEALOUS GOD

- Moses just before his death warns the people to remember that God is Jealous
- De 4:23 "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.
A JEALOUS GOD

Joshua just before his death warned the people of the same thing.

Jos 24:19 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."

A JEALOUS GOD

Even the prophet Nahum years later warns the people of Nineveh that God is a Jealous God.

Na 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;

What does it mean that God is Jealous?
A JEALOUS GOD

- When we think of Jealousy, we usually think of it in a bad way.
- We may think of the Jealous husband who doesn’t even want his wife to speak to another man.
- But, what about the Jealousy of God? Is it a bad thing?
- Certainly not! We cannot attribute anything bad or evil to God.

A JEALOUS GOD

- Webster’s defines Jealous in about 4 different ways.
- Two of these do not describe the Jealousy of God.
  - disposed to suspect rivalry or unfaithfulness
  - hostile toward a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage
A JEALOUS GOD

- The other two I believe describe the Jealous God we read about in the scriptures.
  - intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness
  - vigilant in guarding a possession
- I believe both of these are accurate descriptions of the Jealous God of the Bible.
- God is certainly intolerant of rivals.

A JEALOUS GOD

- This is shown in the response that Jesus gave when Satan wanted Jesus to worship him.
- Mt 4:9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."
- 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"
A JEALOUS GOD

- Jesus makes clear that God alone is to be worshipped.
- This intolerance of rivals is pointed out several times in the Old Testament. Some of these scriptures we have already read.
- In the giving of the 10 commandments we saw God’s intolerance of other so called gods.

A JEALOUS GOD

- Ex 20:5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...
- The Israelites were not supposed to worship the gods of the land they were given because God is jealous.
- Since God is a Jealous God who is intolerant of rivals then He would consume them if they worshipped them.
Jos 24:19 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."

God was so intolerant of these false gods that He demanded they be destroyed.

Nu 33:51 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

52 'then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places;"
A JEALOUS GOD

De 12:2 "You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

3 "And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place.

A JEALOUS GOD

Not only is God intolerant of rival false gods, He is also intolerant of unfaithful men!

Men like Nadab and Abihu

These priests of God offered strange fire while burning incense to God and we know the result

Le 10:2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.
God was intolerant of the unfaithfulness demonstrated by Korah and his followers when they rebelled against Moses and Aaron.

Nu 16:26 And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins."

So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children.

28 And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will."
A JEALOUS GOD

29 "If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me.

30 "But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD."

31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them,

32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.
A JEALOUS GOD

> Because God is a Jealous God, He was intolerant of the unfaithfulness of the 10 northern tribes.
> 2Ki 17:13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

A JEALOUS GOD

> 2Ki 17:14 Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.
> 15 And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them.
2Ki 17:16 So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

17 And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

2Ki 17:18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

The Bible is simply filled with examples of God's intolerance toward man's unfaithfulness.

Even men that were considered “good men”
A JEALOUS GOD

Men like:
- Adam
- David
- Nadab and Abihu
- Uzzah
- King Uzziah

All of these “good men” were punished severely because God is a jealous God who is intolerant of unfaithfulness.

We may look at all these examples and think that all took place in the Old Testament.
What does that have to do with us today?
Our God is still a Jealous God!
Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
And if He was intolerant of the unfaithfulness of those in the Old Testament then He will be intolerant of ours
A JEALOUS GOD

- Remember what Paul told the Christians at Rome?
- Ro 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
- What lessons will we learn from the Old Testament today?

A JEALOUS GOD

- We should learn that when Jesus says:
- Mt 7:21 ¶ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
- That He means it!
- Since God is a Jealous God then we better make our mind up to learn what His will is then do it!
- Just saying I’m a Christian won’t cut it
A JEALOUS GOD

- We should learn when the Word of God says:
  - Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
  - God means it!
  - He is a Jealous God who will not tolerate unfaithfulness

A JEALOUS GOD

- We should also learn when Jesus says:
  - Mt 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
  - Our number one priority in this life must be serving God.
  - We can’t seek material things first in this life (job, family, entertainment)
  - Remember, God is a Jealous God!
A JEALOUS GOD

- We should also learn that our God is a Jealous God who will not tolerate any rivals in our life.
- He must come first!
- Mt 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.
- Do we have physical relationships that we put ahead of obeying God?

A JEALOUS GOD

- Have we allowed money and the pursuit of it to become our God?
- Do we love it more than God?
- 1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
- Are we willing to lie, cheat and deceive in order to obtain it?
CONCLUSION

- We must remember that God is a Jealous God.
- Many believe that God is a loving God and that He will not bring harsh punishment on man.
- Our God is Love but He is also a consuming fire!
- De 4:24 "For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

CONCLUSION

- Those who do not obey Him will be destroyed by that fire
- 2Th 1:8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
CONCLUSION

- Do we think God will deal easier with us than He did those who disobeyed in the Old Testament?
- Heb 10:28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.
- Many of those who rejected the Law of Moses were executed physically.

CONCLUSION

- Heb 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?
- If we reject the Law of Christ then we have a much worse punishment waiting for us because God is a Jealous God!