

Introduction:

- Theme: To explain the jealousy of God and cause believers to take a sober look at their walk with God. Why? "God sends shakings to bring about awakenings!" So that we the church will get properly aligned with the Kingdom of God. God is jealous for us. We sing about that. But do we really believe it?
- Texts:
 - (idols) *"You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me."* (Exodus 20:5, NLT)
 - *"You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you."* (Exodus 34:14, NLT)
- Our goal for today is see how and why God is so jealous of us.

I. The Jealousy of God

- A. I like the fact that God puts His name out there before us. *"Jealous, for I am the Lord your God and my name is Jealous!"* God does not hide who He is! And as soon as they are out of Egypt God is bringing clarity of His expectations from His people.
1. Webster's 1828 Dictionary -
 - a) 1. Suspicious that we do not enjoy the affection or respect of others, or that another is more loved and respected than ourselves. IE. Jealousy between husbands and wife, boyfriend and girlfriend. Ie. These are the ones that often make the 6 O clock news.
 - b) 2. to defend the honor of; concerned for the character of. This is more of a positive quality where one seeks to defend the honor of someone.
 2. Theological Wordbook of the OT
 - a) quanna - is a verb expressing a very strong emotion whereby some quality of possession of the object is desired by the subject. This can be positive or negative. Zeal for another's property is envy. Zeal for ones own property is jealousy!
 - b) Negative: *"Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but jealousy is even more dangerous."* Pro 27:4 NLT
 - c) Positive: Jesus used this: *"Passion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."* (Psalm 69:9, NLT)
 3. God is both very jealous of (those) who draw our attention away from Him...other loves and lovers. And God is very zealous for us when our enemies lay hands upon us. He is jealous of those who draw us away and He is zealous for us when we are being assaulted. This emotion of God is powerful, strong, and swift.

- B. The central meaning of the word *quanna* relates to 'jealousy' especially as it is found in the marriage relationship. This where we can begin to see the jealousy of God and realize why He is so jealous.
1. God views His people as married to Him! *"I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the Lord."* (Hosea 2:19-20, NLT)
 2. And He asks His people to love Him with all their heart. *"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today."* (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, NLT)
 3. When we are born again, this does not change. In fact, the church is seen as the Bride of Christ:
 - a) Paul says of the church: *"For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ."* (2 Corinthians 11:2, NLT)
 - b) *"For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church."* (Eph 5:25, NLT)
 - c) The Apostle John saw the church: *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear." For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.* (Revelation 19:7-8, NLT)
 - d) And Jesus gives us the greatest commandment: *"Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'" (Matthew 22:37, NLT)*
- C. God's jealousy does not come from fear or weakness, but from resentment when His honor, glory, and grace are treated scornfully by His own creatures. *IE. God is jealous like a powerful and merciful king who takes a peasant girl from a life of shame, forgives her, marries her, and gives her not the chores of a slave, but the privileges of a wife—a queen. His jealousy does not rise from fear or weakness but from a holy indignation at having his honor and power and mercy scorned by the faithlessness of a fickle spouse. He brought Israel out of Egypt! He has brought us out of sin and darkness.*
- D. It is right for God to be jealous because He deserves our complete loyalty.
1. *"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."* (Rev 4:11, ESV)
 2. Adultery was punishable by death.

- a) Gen 2:24 By marriage the two become one flesh. To commit adultery was to sever the body into two pieces ... a form of murder. Is it no wonder that God demonstrates in marriage what He lives by spiritually with us.
 - b) *"If a man commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, both the man and the woman who have committed adultery must be put to death."* (Leviticus 20:10, NLT)
 - c) *"If a man is discovered committing adultery, both he and the woman must die. In this way, you will purge Israel of such evil."* (Deuteronomy 22:22, NLT)
3. "God is depicted as Israel's husband; he is a jealous God (Ex 20:5)." Therefore, idolatry is spiritual adultery and merits death. *"You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me."* (Exodus 20:5, NLT)

II. The Sin of Our Idolatry

- A. The context of Exodus 34:14 My name is Jealous.
 - 1. Ex 32 Moses and the commands of God.
 - 2. They hear a party down below after 40 days.
 - 3. Aaron has made Israel a god in the form of a golden calf. And the people are drinking, partying, etc. Moses smashes the tablets. The Levites kill 3,000 of the revelers. And God release a plague on Israel. Things calm down and Moses goes back up the mountain. Ex 34 God says, Tim Franklin paraphrase: "If you have not figured it out yet, I am a jealous God. In fact, I am the Lord your God and my name is jealous!" That had to be impressive enough to leave a mark on their heart.
- B. What is idolatry?
 - 1. *"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming."* (Colossians 3:5-6, ESV) Why are idols dangerous? They bring the wrath of God!
 - a) The wrath of God comes on the idolater because God is jealous! There is a righteous and holy jealousy and an unrighteous and weak and insecure jealousy.
 - b) And God's jealousy is not only righteous but it is loving. Therefore, he deserves our deepest and strongest affections and admiration.
 - 2. "God is jealous that he be honored by being treasured, and he is jealous that we be satisfied by treasuring him." Join Piper
 - 3. So God is jealous in a loving way and He is jealous in a righteous way.

- a) And if we find God to be so boring or so negligible that we must put other things in his place that really satisfy us more than he does, then we not only offend him, but we also destroy ourselves.
 - b) Those two things make God angry. He doesn't want to be offended and he doesn't want us to destroy ourselves. Idolatry contradicts both of those things and so his wrath comes upon the idolater.
- C. What does idolatry look like today?
1. It starts in the heart: cravings, wanting, enjoying, being satisfied by anything that you treasure more than God. That is an idol.
 2. Paul calls this covetousness – a disordered love or desire. It is loving someone else or something else more than God. Covetousness is the condition that this disordered heart is in, an act of loving too much what ought to be loved less. That is why the wrath of God is coming. That is what idolatry looks like today. And it is everywhere in our culture. “Idolatry starts in the heart: craving, wanting, enjoying, being satisfied by anything that you treasure more than God.”
 3. An idol is that person or thing that you love more than God, wanted more than God, desire more than God, treasure more than God, or enjoy more than God. IE. girlfriend., good grades, approval of other people, success in business, sexual stimulation, hobby or a musical group, sport or... Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worship (loved more, gave more time to,) the created and the creature.

III. What Must We Do?

- A. Don't make God jealous! That would have been my answer to the Israelites. Use His jealousy to steer you into right choices.
1. "Whatever lures your affections away from God with deceptive attraction will come back to strip you down and eat you alive. Don't use your God given life to commit adultery against The Living God!
 2. Sin should scare us because it provokes the jealousy of God. Therefore Col. 3:5-6
- B. God expects man to return his love. Therefore return to your First Love!
- a) Love is not simply an emotion, it is a structured relationship.
 - b) To love God is to obey him. So the word is used to denote a passionate, consuming “zeal” focused on God that results in the doing of his will and the maintaining of his honor in the face of the ungodly acts of men and nations. Phinehas *“Phinehas son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron the priest has turned my anger away from the Israelites by being as zealous among them as I was. So I stopped destroying all Israel as I had intended to do in my zealous anger.”* (Numbers 25:11, NLT) Phinehas prophetically acted out the faithful lover and killed a man and his foreign wife and in so doing held back the wrath

of God from Israel.; Elijah (kill prophets of baal and ashera.) Jehu are particular examples of this zeal."

- C. God's jealousy should comfort us. Charles Spurgeon: *"But for those of you who have been truly united to Christ and who keep your vows to forsake all others and cleave only to him and live for his honor--for you the jealousy of God is a great comfort and a great hope. Since God is infinitely jealous for the honor of his name, anything and anybody who threatens the good of his faithful wife will be opposed with divine omnipotence."*
- D. We must turn from our idols. When we turn to Christ from idols we escape the wrath of God because he is for us. God is for us in Christ on the cross. When we keep Jesus the center of our lives His Kingdom comes to us!

Conclusion:

- Our forgiveness marries us to Christ and He is a jealous husband.
- *"When the love of God is shed abroad in the heart, the idols will soon depart and the love of sin will take its flight."* Charles Spurgeon Holiness is not an avoidance issue dealing with sin. Holiness is an affection issue dealing with Christ. If we stay in love with God we send away the idols of our heart.
- *"O Lord, how long will you be angry with us? Forever? How long will your jealousy burn like fire?"* (Psalm 79:5, NLT)

IV. Extra scriptures

- A. *""So now, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will end the captivity of my people; I will have mercy on all Israel, for I jealously guard my holy reputation! They will accept responsibility for their past shame and unfaithfulness after they come home to live in peace in their own land, with no one to bother them."* (Ezekiel 39:25-26, NLT)
- B. *"The Lord is a jealous God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose him and continues to rage against his enemies!"* (Nahum 1:2, NLT)
- C. *"You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? 'Are we stronger than he?'"* (1 Co 10:21-22).ESV
- D. NT Greek *"For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ."* (2 Corinthians 11:2, NLT) *zelos*
- E. *"O Lord, how long will you be angry with us? Forever? How long will your jealousy burn like fire?"* (Psalm 79:5, NLT)
- F. *"Therefore, be patient," says the Lord. "Soon I will stand and accuse these evil nations. For I have decided to gather the kingdoms of the earth and pour out my fiercest anger and fury on them. All the earth will be devoured by the fire of my jealousy."* (Zephaniah 3:8, NLT)

When God's warning go unheeded, God gives His people the justice due their spiritual adultery. Ezk 5:13; 8:3,5; 16:38