

# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

## WEEK 2 – JEALOUSY

### Introduction

With each attribute, we follow this same pattern:

1. What does the attribute mean?
2. Does scripture teach that God exhibits this attribute?
3. How does this scripture affect the Christian life?

### What Does This Attribute Mean?

#### Worldly Definition:

1931 Webster's Dictionary:

Jealousy = *suspicious fear or watchfulness, especially the fear of being supplanted by a rival*

#### Biblical Definition:

**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 or 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 the fourth generation of those who hate me,

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John Frame defines God's attribute of Jealousy as:

"A passionate zeal to guard the exclusiveness of a marriage relationship, leading to anger against an unfaithful spouse." (Frame, Doctrine of God, p458)

Frame: when Scripture speaks of God as a jealous God, it never presents His jealousy as a negative trait. (Frame, Doctrine of God, p458)

Michael Horton:

"Jealousy in humans is a perversion because it implies a right that does not belong to us. We hoard possessions, and to the extent that even relationships, creatures, and other people can become possessions rather than genuine others, our jealousy confirms our oppressive stance. However, the God who possesses creation already exercises his covenant lordship by giving rather than possessing, by sacrificing rather than hoarding, by spending rather than saving his wealth. It is God's jealousy for his people, in fact, that underscores his love and eventuates in their salvation. In us, jealousy is a form of coveting – claiming that which is not ours. In God, jealousy is a form of protecting – guarding that which is precious to God, both his character and his covenant people." (Horton, The Christian Faith, p272)

### **Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?**

**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 or 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 the fourth generation of those who hate me,

**Ex. 34:12** Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. **13** You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim **14** (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), **15** lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, **16** and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods.

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**Deut. 4:23** Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the LORD your God has forbidden you. **24** For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

**Deut. 6:14** You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— **15** for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

**Josh. 24:17** for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. **18** And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.” **19** But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. **20** If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”

**Nah. 1:2** The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. **3** The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

**1Kings 14:22** And Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their fathers had done.

Puritan Thomas Watson:

God is jealous of two things; of our love, and of our trust. He is jealous of our love, lest we love the creature more than him, therefore he makes it prove bitter; and of our trust, lest we should place more confidence in it than in him, therefore he makes it prove unfaithful. Outward comforts are given us as food by the way to refresh us, not as crutches to lean on. If we make the creature an idol, what we make our trust God will make our shame. Oh trust in the

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immortal God! Like Noah's dove, we have no footing for our souls, till we get into the ark of God's unchangeableness. Ps 125:1. 'They that trust in the Lord shall be like mount zion, which cannot be removed.' (Thomas Watson, Body of Divinity)

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**1Pet. 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

**Matt. 20:28** even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**1Tim. 2:3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **5** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

**1Cor. 10:19** What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? **20** No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. **21** You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. 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?

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### How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?

1<sup>st</sup> - Comfort & Assurance

2<sup>nd</sup> - Spiritual Adultery

3<sup>rd</sup> - Our need to be Jealous for Him