



Jealousy FOR or OF

God is jealous. His name is El Kana, the God who is jealous. This particular name reveals how He looks at us with passionate faithful attention as His own. He is zealous (same word in Gk) towards us! He cannot bear that something else takes first place in our lives. Since He purchased us at the highest price, He cannot bear to have us belong to anyone or anything else nor tolerate anyone or anything standing between His heart and ours. He desires that we value His deep unending relentless love, and that we jealously pursue Him in the same way.

Godly Jealousy

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2 Cor. 11:2

Since we are created in His image, we have it in our nature to be jealous as God is jealous. The world misunderstands and denies this aspect of love because they can only see a defiled type of jealousy that is not of God. Since God's love is good and pure, we must never think of His jealousy as anything less or inferior. This burning fire of His love, draws us, like a magnet, like a man in love draws a woman to enter into a love covenant that is forever.

Two Kinds of Jealousy

God is jealous FOR us. He is not jealous OF us. We must make this distinction or else we will devalue and discard this aspect of His love and reduce it to a sameness with the world. The Lord is never jealous of us for He lacks no good thing!

There is an eternal difference between these two jealousies. It is His love-jealousy that pursues us for OUR good in order to give us all things that pertain to life and godliness. God's love is never jealous in a corrupt way. We must retrieve this pure godly jealousy, for first love can never be first love without this kind of burning passion that seals us to Him and keeps us unspotted from the world and the sin that so easily entangles us.

Satan is jealous OF us. He desires to rob us of all the good we receive from God. His selfish, corrupt and flawed jealousy is a direct by-product of the sin that was found in his heart. Throughout scripture we see that there have been men and women who were satanically provoked to jealousy OF God's people, trying to rob and destroy them. God is jealous FOR us to escape from the grip of the enemy in order to cling to Him alone under the protective shadow of His wings. This pure sinless jealousy is an expression of His wholehearted selfless love which desires to do good unto us.

They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. Deut. 32:15-21

But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. Rom. 10:19

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy. Rom. 11:11

Provoking Israel to Jealousy

When the Word of God speaks about provoking Israel to jealousy, it's never talking about the corrupt carnal jealousy we see in and from Satan, but about the pure jealousy of God. The Greek word here, παραζηλώω/ parazēloō, means to stimulate to jealousy ALONGSIDE. This is not a provoking to jealousy from afar or for rivalry sake, but a coming alongside the other as an example or help to inspire jealousy in the other.

We are called to come alongside Israel to inspire godly jealousy, to cause her to be jealous FOR God as He is FOR her so that she will return to her first love and covenant. We pursue Israel by coming alongside her with the burning pure zeal of God that will bring her home to the Father. Much like the prodigal when he returned to his senses, declaring that the servants are treated better in the Father's house than he was treated in the "pigpens" of the world, so Israel is to behold in us how well we are "fed" in our Father's house. This will provoke Israel to the jealousy that will cause her to repent of her flagrant rebellion and to run to the Father, to be separated from the world, to be a light to the nations and to play her role in the redemption of the world.

We desire Israel to be grafted in again because we love her with the love of God. We are jealous for the greater riches that come with her return: resurrection life for the whole world. We are jealous for her to come home to celebrate as one family in the Father's house, sharing His glory altogether.

Father, remove from us the jealousy that is carnal and selfish and recreate in us Your pure and selfless jealousy that is an integral part of Your burning love that causes us to escape from the grip of the enemy and to cling to You alone. Give us Your jealousy FOR Israel that will provoke her to return to her first love. In Jesus' Name.

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