

# Yehovah is a Jealous God

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Jealousy is one of the prime motivators of all evil. Humans become jealous of others, jealous of what others have—be they individual human beings or nations. One nation becomes jealous of another nation or one human becomes jealous of another human and they take what is not theirs. Wars have started over jealousy. Humans become jealous and they tear down one another because they are jealous of what this other person has or their position or their title. They attack them or tear them down to try and bring them down to their level. Let's go to Galatians 5, a familiar scripture that talks about the works of the flesh. We'll read verses 19-21. Throughout the sermon I'll be reading out of the King James unless otherwise noted but we're going to read this verse out of the New Living Translation. It's talking about the works of the flesh but notice there are two very important ones that are involved in this subject today of jealousy.

**Galatians 5:19** *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20) idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition [which can tie into jealousy; wanting something for the self], dissension, division, 21) envy [we'll see that jealousy and envy are tied together], drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. (NLT)*

If “jealousy” and “envy” become part of our character, we're not going to be in the Kingdom of God. Obviously Yehovah, our Father, is not pleased by such behavior. To the point that if jealousy and envy are part of our character, at the end of the day, we will not be there in the Kingdom of God.

I think we understand that and we know that, but let's notice one more scripture that says something unique. Let's go to Deuteronomy 4:24. We're told something about our Father—Yehovah—on this subject.

**Deuteronomy 4:24** *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. (KJV)*

We can see here there is an apparent contradiction. On the one hand “jealousy” will keep us out of the Kingdom of God, but on the other hand, Yehovah exhibits jealousy. So, what are we to make of this? How do we understand this and resolve this and what can we learn about our Father from this apparent contradiction? It's not a contradiction, but on the surface maybe it appears to be so. So that leads us to our title for today.

Yehovah is a Jealous God

He is indeed and we will look at this subject through four points. First, we want to establish the background that's necessary to understand Yehovah being a jealous God.

## **1. Yehovah our Father—God Almighty—demands to be worshipped above all.**

That's an important point we have to establish as background. Let's go to Matthew 4:8-10. We're breaking into the account of Jesus being tested by Satan; He fasted 40 days and 40 nights. We're breaking into that account because it's pertinent to this subject today.

**Matthew 4:8** *Again, the devil taketh him [Jesus] up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (KJV)*

That was quite a trip let's say, seeing all the glory of all the kingdoms of the world.

*9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (KJV)*

Notice Jesus' reply.

*10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, [get out of here] Satan: for it is written, [He's quoting Deuteronomy 6:13] Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (KJV)*

Meaning "I'm not going to serve you, I'm not going to bow down in front of you because we are to worship the Lord our God." The reason He said this is because the Father is Christ's God. The Bible is very clear about that. Let's go to John 20:17 and read that. Years ago when I came into the Worldwide Church of God in the mid 60's, I never thought about this—who was Christ's God? It never occurred to me, I never heard a sermon on it, I never saw it addressed, but the Bible talks about this in several places.

**John 20:17** *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. (KJV)*

There are other scriptures we could quote but Christ makes it very clear. Jesus makes it very clear that His God was the Father, Yehovah. Jesus put His Father above all, even Himself. In the garden of Gethsemane He said, "Your will be done. I don't want to do this. Can this thing pass by me? But nevertheless, Your will be done". He put His Father first—ahead of Himself.

Let's go back to Deuteronomy 5 where the Ten Commandments are and we'll read verses 6-10. Again, establishing the background that our Father demands to be worshipped above all.

**Deuteronomy 5:6** *I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

7) *Thou shalt have none other gods before me. (KJV)*

“Put nothing in front of Me.”

8) *Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:*

9) *Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: (KJV)*

That means any idol of any kind. A physical thing that you could touch or something in your mind that's not a physical representation. And the reason is:

9 continued) *... for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,*

10) *And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments. (KJV)*

We have a dichotomy of people who, if they obey God, they will be blessed to thousands of their progeny who love and keep My commandment. But if you turn against Me, if you put something in front of Me, you will have to pay a horrible price. Our Father demands that we put nothing in front of Him. Why is that? When you think about it, He is supreme, He is sovereign, He is the Most High, He is the Almighty, He is the living God, there is none above Him, there is none who is His equal, there is no other Being who is His equal. He has His Son, but remember in John 17:3,

*“This is life eternal, that you come to know the one true God and His Son, Jesus Christ.”*

So, for those who want to please the supreme Being, He demands that we put nothing in front of Him. Because there is nothing in front of Him, there is nothing above Him and who are we as human beings to say, I don't accept that, I'm going to put something else in front of God Almighty. It might be desires, it might be money, it might be lust, it might be anything. But He demands that we put nothing in front of Him. We worship Him above all.

Now the second point.

## **2. Yehovah our Father does become jealous when His children worship other gods.**

God Almighty becomes jealous when His children—be they Ancient Israel or the “called out” ones today—worship other gods. Let's go to the parallel account of the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20 and read the first 5 verses. We'll read this out of the King James. Read this from the standpoint of our Father demanding that we worship Him

above all and put yourself in His position of how you might feel if your children do not do that.

**Exodus 20:1** *And God spake all these words, saying,  
2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. (KJV)*

All the miracles and all that was done. Look at the miracles that He has performed in bringing us out of our bondage when we were called and continues to perform miracles to rescue us and take care of us.

3) *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (KJV)*

“Because of Who I am, you should have no other gods before Me.”

4) *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

5) *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: (KJV)*

Today, bowing down in front of something of wood or stone is not very common. But serving the self or serving evil or serving lusts or serving pride is just like bowing down in front of something made of wood or stone.

5 continued) *... for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; (KJV)*

The Hebrew word for *jealous* is Strong's #7067 and we'll refer to this word as we go through today. It's transliterated into English *qanna* (pronounced qua-nah). It means “jealous” and it's the same Hebrew word we read in the introduction of Deuteronomy 4:24 where it said “I am a jealous God”. The Brown, Driver and Briggs Commentary says that *qanna* is an adjective and only applies to God. It is only used in reference to God Almighty.

Let's look at another scripture where *qanna* is used, it's in Exodus 34:12-14. We're going to explore the meaning of this word and how it's used in various ways today. Obviously, Moses is writing.

**Exodus 34:12** *Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:*

13) *But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:*

14) *For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: (KJV)*

Whose name is Jealous, that's #7067, *qanna*—a jealous God, the same word again. Baker and Carpenter in their Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament say this about *qanna*:

*An adjective meaning jealous; the word comes from the word qanno, #7065, meaning to be jealous or zealous.*

It has both meanings and that is going to come into play in our last point. It can mean *jealous* or *zealous*. Notice this:

*In every instance of this word, it is used to describe the character of the LORD. He is a jealous God who will not tolerate the worship of other gods.*

Then they quote Exodus 20:5 which we've already read.

*This word is always used to describe God's attitude toward the worship of false gods which arouses His jealousy and His anger.*

Keep that in mind. He is jealous when we worship other gods and it arouses his jealousy, anger and judgment against the idol worshippers. They go on to quote Deuteronomy 4:24 and Deuteronomy 6:15. So closely is this characteristic associated with God that His name is "Jealous" and we just read that in Exodus 34. We're going to see that's not really His name, it's His title.

Let me read from Gill's Commentary regarding Exodus 34:14.

*"For you shall worship no other God than the LORD their God, the only living and true God which was the first commandment given to the people of Israel.*

And Gill's Commentary says, "*and binding upon all men*"—all of mankind. They don't know it yet but they will at some point.

*His name and nature answer to one another. He admits of no rival or competitor in worship. He will not give His glory to another God or one so-called nor His praise to graven images. In this He is distinguished from all nominal or fictitious gods. But it is otherwise with the LORD who knows the dishonor done Him and resents it and is as jealous of any worship being given to another as the husband is of the honor of his marriage bed, for idolatry is spiritual adultery.*

We've talked about that before. If we put anything before God, it's committing spiritual adultery. We see that one of Yehovah's—the King James says *names*—but it's a *title* and is *Jealous*. Verse 14, *For you shall worship no other God for Yehovah "whose name is jealous. (Qanna, #7067), He is a jealous God.*

The Hebrew word for *name* is Strong's #8034 and we're going to see that it shouldn't be translated as a name. It's the English word transliterated as *shem*, it's pronounced "shame". According to Strong's, *through the idea of definite and conspicuous position and an appellation (an appellation is a title) as a mark or memorial of individuality by honor, authority, character.*

I can remember, I grew up in World War II—born in World War II—and there were movies and books about General Patton—a famous general in World War II. His appellation—his title—was "Old Blood and Guts". That wasn't his name, that was his title—an appellation—and that's what the Exodus 34:14 word means, the Hebrew word *shem*. We know our Father's name is Yehovah, there is plenty of material on our website and numerous sermons given on the subject. One of His descriptive titles is "Jealous". Just like the "Almighty" is a descriptive title. Or the "Most High" or the "Living God" is a descriptive title. "Jealous" is another descriptive title.

In order to define our terms, it's always good to know we're on the same page and talking about the same time, so let's look at the definition of "jealous". I'm going to take this from the New Oxford Dictionary. They have two definitions of "jealous".

Number one - We'll see it applies to human beings.

*Feeling or showing envy of someone or of their achievements or advantages.*

They give an example—a sentence: "He grew jealous of her success."

This definition definitely applies to human beings. We see that in the office, we see that in the world where people become jealous, one of another and fights ensue—all kinds of problem arise. This cannot apply to God Almighty, "jealousy" in this sense of having envy. It doesn't apply to our Father, Yehovah, because He is never envious of anything. He has everything, He is all powerful so there is nothing for Him to envious of. So this first definition—yet it applies to humans—but it doesn't apply to God Almighty.

Number two - The second definition from the New Oxford American Dictionary is this and it does apply.

*Fiercely protective or vigilant of one's rights or possessions...*

It goes on to say,

*of God, demanding faithfulness and exclusive worship.*

This definition is most appropriate. *Fiercely protective or vigilant of one's rights* of Who He is.

I thought it would be interesting to look back to 1828, I have a copy of Webster's Dictionary of 1828 which takes us not quite half way back between us today and the

King James Version of the Bible. It shows how far we have drifted away from God Almighty because this is from Webster's Dictionary, 1828 under the word "jealous".

*This English word was translated from the Hebrew word qanna [says it in the dictionary].*

The fourth definition that was given by Webster is:

*Indignation: God's jealousy signifies His concern for His own character and government with a holy indignation against those who violate His laws and offend against His Majesty.*

That pretty much sums it up. I thought to myself, "Rick, define *indignation*." So, I started to define it in my head and like most of us when we define something we start stumbling and bumbling around trying to get the right definition. So I looked it up in the 1828 Webster's Dictionary. It says this about the second definition of *indignation* which applies to God Almighty:

*The anger of a superior; extreme anger; the wrath of God against sinful men for their ingratitude and their rebellion.*

We see that God's *indignation* and *jealousy* go hand in hand. It's the anger of a superior—God Almighty—against those who would dare worship another God or put someone in front of Him. Our Father is not "jealous" in the sense of envy—human envy—as we view jealousy today. But rather He has holy *indignation* against anyone who does not respect Who He is—the Almighty, the Most High. He has indignation against somebody who doesn't respect who He is and who does not respect His supreme authority. That He is the final one. He is the only one. It's His will that counts, His view counts—not us, not anyone else.

The very meaning of the Hebrew word *qanna* tells us that our Father becomes *jealous*, He becomes *indignant* anytime we put something in front of Him. That's a scary place to be—we don't want to go there. That leads us to the third point.

### **3. How is Yehovah's jealousy, how is His indignation, manifested?**

If Ancient Israel, when they put something in front of Him and bowed down and worshipped, such as the golden calf, or when we put ourselves in front of Him or something we want, in front of Him, how is our Father's jealousy and indignation manifested? What does the Bible say about that? Let's go back to Deuteronomy 5, we read that earlier—the Ten Commandments. We're going to read verse 9 and 10 but this time out of the New Living Translation.

**Deuteronomy 5:9** *You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God [the Hebrew word qanna] 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. [Reject Him by putting something in front of Him]*

*10) But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands. (NLT)*

Today we see the fruits of that. We see the sins of the parents flowing down to the third and fourth generation. Sadly today, we see the third and fourth generation are worse than the parents. It gets worse as it goes down, farther and farther away from God Almighty. Now let's go to the next chapter, Deuteronomy 6:13-15.

**Deuteronomy 6:13** *Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. [Yes indeed, He does have a name]*

*14) Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;*

*15) (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth. (KJV)*

We see in these scriptures that Yehovah's *indignation*, His *jealousy* is manifested by His anger and by His punishment. We don't want to be on the receiving end of that. His anger and His punishment will ultimately lead to the destruction of those who refuse to put Him first. It's very simple, "If you want to live, put Me first, if you want to die then just do your own thing and you're going to die, it's your choice." Joshua carried that same theme after Moses' death. Let's go to Joshua 24:19 and 20. Joshua is writing shortly before his death. I'm going to read this out of the New Living Translation.

**Joshua 24:19** *Then Joshua warned the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord [you don't have the heart—Deuteronomy 5 tells us and Moses lamented that], for he is a holy and jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins.*

*20) If you abandon the Lord and serve other gods, [here is the result, this is how His jealousy is manifested] he will turn against you and destroy you, even though he has been so good to you." (NLT)*

They had a choice to make. The Hebrew word for *jealous* is a different Hebrew word, it's Strong's #7072 and is the Hebrew word *qannow* but it's used in place of #7067, *qanna* which we read earlier. It can mean "jealous" and it can also mean "angry"; it has that dual meaning. Let's look at another scripture where this Hebrew word *qannow* is used. Nahum 1:2—we don't often go to Nahum. I'm going to read this out of the New Living Translation

**Nahum 1:2** *The Lord is a jealous [that's #7072, qannow] God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose him and continues to rage against his enemies! (NLT)*



Sometimes we don't realize how serious God Almighty is about us not putting anything in front of Him. This world is going to pay a horrible price with His vengeance and rage being poured out during the Day of the Lord. We see that Yehovah's jealousy, His indignation, is manifested by His anger. Is manifested by His angry punishment by those who willingly—not out of ignorance—willingly reject Him. The Almighty blesses those who love and obey Him. On the one hand He exhibits extreme love to those who love Him but if any human being dares to put something in front of Him, He has vengeance and rage upon them. Let's go to Leviticus 26, the "blessings and cursings" chapter, but let's approach it from a standpoint of Yehovah, God Almighty, being the Most High God and being jealous and indignant when human beings do not put Him first. Let's read it from that stand point—from God Almighty's standpoint. In Leviticus 26, we're going to read the first six verses then 12-20 and then 23-25.

**Leviticus 26:1** *Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God. [I am eternal, you are not. I have always been, you have a beginning and if you don't put Me first, you're going to have an end]*

2) *Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.*  
[We're to do this because of Who He is]

3) *If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;*

4) *Then I will give you rain in due season [these are physical blessings for physical deeds to Ancient Israel], and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.*

5) *And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. (KJV)*

What a concept; if you'll just put Me first, if you will obey Me, you will have peace and safety.

6) *And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land ... (KJV)*

With the Hebrew word for *beast*, we often think it's being applied to just animals—lions, tigers, bears, things like that, but it can mean humans as well as animals. What is going on in the world today? We have human beings that are "beasts", given what is happening.

6 continued) *... neither shall the sword go through your land.*

7) *And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.*

8) *And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. (KJV)*

So we see wonderful physical blessings for a physical people if they would just put God Almighty first.

*Continuing in Verse 12) ...*

*12) And I will walk among you [think of that, the Creator of all that is, wanted to walk among His people], and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. (KJV)*

This was what was offered to Israel physically, but today we are offered that spiritually, as the “called out ones”.

*13) I am the LORD your God [this is repeated over and over], which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke [Egypt’s yoke over Israel], and made you go upright. (KJV)*

What He is saying is, “Look at what I’ve done for you.” He could say the same for us. “Look at what I’ve done for you and then you go put something in front of Me, after everything I’ve done for you?”

*14) But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;  
15) And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: (KJV)*

We know Israel did that. What are we doing today in United States, Canada, Australia and the UK? What are we doing today? You can’t teach about God in schools. You can’t teach about God in universities, that is forbidden. Promote teachings that are contrary to Yehovah’s truth, promote evolution, promote homosexuality, promote abortion as a right—it’s a right to kill people—totally confused on men and women and who they are. In June 24th of last year, Gallop did an annual poll and they asked the question, do you believe in a God? Not THE God but do you believe that God exists? Only 64% of Americans replied positively that God exists. That was down from 79% in 2004; 79% down to 64% in less than a generation. Even though people say—69% believe in God—they might believe a god exists but they don’t know the true God. They don’t know who He is, they don’t know anything about Him.

My wife and I were watching the news this past week—Pride month that is going on. Veterans live, die and were maimed and we give them a day. Even the world gives Jesus Christ’s “*birth* day” a day. But here we give the gay pride movement a month. How did that happen and what’s behind that? It was on the news and the rainbow flags and all of that—makes me sick to my stomach—but they interviewed this young transgender woman and she said, “God loves all people, He loves me as I am”. That tells me she has no God at all. She has a fanciful opinion of God, an opinion of God that is totally untrue. Yes, God Almighty loves her as a potential child of His, but He does not love who she has become, that’s for sure. Verse 16 I’ll read out of the New Living Translation.

*16) I will punish you. I will bring sudden terrors upon you [look at the rise in mental illness]—wasting diseases ... (NLT)*

We had a war on cancer that started in 1965 under President Nixon and we are not better off now than back then. Cancer kills so many people.

*16 continued) ... and burning fevers [“Covid” comes to mind and others, which are similar] that will cause your eyes to fail and your life to ebb away ... (NLT)*

What about Multiple Sclerosis that causes life to ebb away. One of my best friends in the church died from that and it was just horrible to see; you just waste away over time. Long Covid, wasting away, decline over time.

*16 continued) ... You will plant your crops in vain because your enemies will eat them.*

*17) I will turn against you, and you will be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will run even when no one is chasing you! (NLT)*

It's sad to say, since World War II the United States has not won a single war. That was 78 years ago. We lost in Korea—it was a stalemate but we essentially lost. We lost in Vietnam; we lost in Iraq and recently we left Afghanistan with our tail between our legs. We have not won a single war—not one. Verse 18, back to the King James.

*18) And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.*

*19) And I will break the pride of your power; (KJV)*

That has certainly happened. We were weak in pulling out of Vietnam, we were weak in pulling out of Afghanistan. We were so afraid of Russia that we didn't help Ukraine in the very beginning and the administration has been dragged, kicking and screaming, to help and they are always a day late and a dollar short. Ukraine right now is starting to run out of ammunition. Finally, somebody is starting to wake up a little bit. They have been begging for airplanes. Finally, down the road—months from now—they might get one or two. We're afraid—I'll break the pride of your power.

*19) and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: (KJV)*

Record heat, record drought, record wildfires. Do you know what the cost to the U.S. taxpayer annually is for the wildfires? Depending on the year it's between 100-150 billion dollars, just to fight wildfires.

*20) And your strength shall be spent in vain: (KJV)*

We have wasted multiple trillion dollars in foreign aid that has not bought us much. Multiple trillions were wasted in wars not won. The Vietnam war cost us over \$1 trillion

and we left, as I said, with our tail between our legs. By getting into that war, the VA has for decades sometimes, been dragged kicking and screaming, to support the Vietnam veterans. Agent Orange—it took them 30 years to realize, and finally admit, that Agent Orange used in Vietnam can cause cancer. Do you know what the annual aid is to just Vietnam veterans and their families? It's \$22 billion annually and that's not enough. It's not helping them as much as it should. If we hadn't gotten into the war then we wouldn't have needed that money. Do you know the Afghan war that we just pulled out of so ignominiously, do you know what that cost us? \$3.3 trillion, the longest war in the U.S. history. We are wasting our treasure for no good use. Foreign aid spent in vain, just squandered year by year. It's interesting—when we invaded Iraq and turned them into a democracy, the first thing we did was build a gigantic Embassy. It was supposed to house 16,000 U.S. Embassy personnel because we were going to turn them into a democracy. Nation building it was called. Do you know what it cost just to build that building? Three quarters of a billion dollars—\$750 million just to build this one building. Do you know how many are in it today—U.S. employees—1000. Just wasted money.

*20 continued) for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits. (KJV)*

We have had crop failures due to droughts, due to storms, due to disease and last week, if you read in the news, the Georgia peach crop is declared almost totally lost. 90% of it is declared lost—those poor farmers.

*23) And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;*

*24) Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.*

*25) And I will bring a sword upon you ... (KJV)*

We always thought it was going to be an invasion by somebody from the outside. Back in Worldwide it was going to be Germany and the United States of Europe. We could substitute for sword, assault rifle. In 2020 we had 611 mass shootings. A mass shooting is defined as four people killed or injured in the same event with guns—mass shootings. In 2020 we had 611, in 2021 we had 698, 2022 we had 735. Through June of this year—181 days—we have had 435. We are on track to almost hit 900. On the news last night in the first 7 or 8 days in July there were something like 26 mass shootings, just in the first 7 days of July this year. The sword seems to be coming from the inside—the sword being assault rifles and guns and violence like that.

*25 continued) ... that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities [that's exactly what's happening with assault rifles], I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. (KJV)*

Of course, today we have Covid and all its variants, monkey pox, flu, RSV. But we also have—delivered into the hands of our enemies—foreign ownership which has tripled in

the last ten years. Foreign investors are buying up our country. We don't own as much of it as we used to. As of January 1, of this year, on the U.S. stock exchange, there were 252 Chinese controlled companies listed on the United States Stock Exchange. Doing business in this country, taking our wealth and sending back to China. These 252 companies have a total market capitalization of over \$1 trillion. We are buying their stock when we invest in certain parts of the market.

We see, closing out this third point, that the Creator of all things—God Almighty—all He does is ask His children to worship Him, obey Him and put Him first for their own good. He also says:

“If you don't want to do that, if you refuse to do this, if you want to seek your own way, if you want to seek other gods and put other gods before Me then this is going to be the result—what we just covered in this 3rd point.”

God Almighty demands and frankly deserves absolute loyalty and obedience because of Who He is. There's none higher, there is none His equal. Therefore, He is totally within His rights to demand for absolute loyalty and obedience and that we put nothing in front of Him once we understand Who He is. We also know that the world doesn't understand—it's not their time. But certainly, ancient Israel had no excuse after seeing all the miracles. We today, having the Holy Spirit inside us and we know who God is and we know who His son is, we have absolutely no excuse for putting anything above our Creator. He demands and deserves absolute loyalty and obedience. But, as we're trying to bring out in this third point, for those who will not do that, He becomes *indignant* and *jealous* which manifests itself in His anger and punishment. To those who will not put Him first.

The fourth and final point.

#### **4. Our Father, Yehovah is also a zealous God.**

In addition to being *jealous*, He is a *zealous* God. Remember the Hebrew word *qanna*, #7067, can mean either *jealous* or *zealous* as we read earlier in Baker and Carpenter's Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament. With this in mind of our Father being *zealous*, let's go to Ezekiel 39:25. I'll read this out of the New King James. We're going to see here that the word *jealous* or *zealous* can both apply.

**Ezekiel 39:25** *Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name— (NKJV)*

That's the Hebrew word *qanna*, #7067. However, the New International Version, the Aramaic Bible in Plain English, the International Standard Version, the Literal Standard Version, the New Revised Standard Version and Young's Literal Translation, translate it:

*I will be zealous for My holy name.*

You can see that it could mean both. He's *jealous* about His name, He doesn't want His name used—*don't take My name in vain*—but He is also *zealous* about His name. He wants the world to know Who He is. We know that will happen starting in the millennium.

Let's look at another scripture where #7065, *qanna*, is used—Joel 2:18. We know the book of Joel talks about the "Day of the Lord" and in Joel 2:1, that is the subject of chapter 2.

**Joel 2:18** *Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. (KJV)*

The use of the word *jealous* here, in some ways, doesn't make sense. What does *jealous* have to do with *pitying His people*? The New King James, the New American Standard, the Aramaic Bible in Plain English, and the Literal Standard Version translate this as *zealous* which makes more sense.

*Then will Yehovah be zealous for His land and pity His people.*

He has zeal to bring Israel back to their land, He has zeal to turn Israel around. Let's look at a third scripture, Zechariah 1:14. This is where #7065, *qanna*, is used again.

**Zechariah 1:14** *So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. (KJV)*

Again, the word *jealous* is probably not the right translation because the New King James, the Aramaic Bible in Plain English, and the American (Literal) Standard Version says,

*I am zealous with great zeal for Jerusalem and for Zion.*

*I am zealous with great zeal* because He wants Jerusalem restored. He wants Zion restored. With that in mind, let's look at what the New Testament has to say about this subject, about the Father being *zealous*. Let's go to 2 Corinthians 11:1-3. We know Paul is writing here. This is out of the New Living Translation.

**2 Corinthians 11:1** *I hope you will put up with a little more of my foolishness. Please bear with me. (NLT)*

Verse 2) back to the King James.

*2) 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.*

3) *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (KJV)*

Paul says, *I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy*. The Greek word *jealous* here is Strong's #2206 and in English it's *zeal*. It comes from the previous word listed in Strong's #2205 and this is what it means:

“To have warmth of feeling for or against; to be jealous over; to be zealous over.”

It's just like the Hebrew word. It can be *jealous* or *zealous*. Let me read from Help's Word Studies about #2205, the root word because it has an interesting meaning. It's the Greek word *zelos*:

*This word mimics the sound of water bubbling over from heat.*

That's kind of interesting.

*Properly, burning emotion; an inner feeling of boiling over from heat, Figuratively something very fervent.*

“Red-hot” we would say.

*As with spirit fueled zeal to serve the Lord. This root “ze” is used both negatively as jealousy and positively as zeal (but notice this), depending on the context.*

It can be used as *jealous or zealous*, this Greek word, #2206. So, we see that Paul could have just as easily said, *I am zealous over you with Godly zeal*. I want the best for you, I want you to do well. It can mean both, depending on the context. We see by looking at the scriptures in this fourth point that jealousy and zealousness go hand in hand. Yehovah is jealous when His children worship other gods because He only, deserves to be worshipped above all. But at the same time, He is also zealous about His name, He is zealous about His children, about His land He has given to His children and He will fight to protect His children because of His zeal over His children. Given who Yehovah is—the Eternal, the Almighty, the Most High—He becomes indignant when His humans reject Him; He absolutely does. When they disobey Him, or they worship other gods or the self. Yehovah our Father is also zealous for us—His children. He is so zealous He wants the best for us, He wants us in His Kingdom. If we look back in our lives, how many times has He rescued us? How many times has He answered our prayers? How many times has He kept us out of trouble or rescued us from the trouble we got ourselves into, by being merciful and zealous because He wants us into His Kingdom.

Let's wrap this up now. Yes, jealousy is a work of the flesh—no question. But we've also seen that our Father, Yehovah, can be provoked to jealousy. Not in the sense of “envy” but rather in the sense of “being fiercely protective” of Who He is, His position and that

He doesn't want us to worship anything in front of Him. So, what we've seen today is He demands to be worshipped above all. Yehovah our Father becomes jealous when His children worship other gods and put anything before Him. We've seen that His jealousy is manifested by His anger and the subsequent punishment because of His anger. We've also found that our Father is also zealous for His children, Ancient Israel, for us today and for His land. He's also zealous for His name and that we all come to know Him.

In closing, how can we avoid our Father's jealousy and indignation and punishment? We don't want to get into cross purposes with the most powerful Being there is. We don't stand a chance. We don't want to do that. Let's go to Isaiah 57:15 and see the answer to that question. It starts off reminding us of Who He is.

**Isaiah 57:15** *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is [we know that to be Yehovah] Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.* (KJV)

He is present—God Almighty—to lift our hearts if we put Him first. If we humble ourselves in front of Him and repent of our sins and worship Him above all, then He will lift us up. But He's jealous if we put anything in front of Him because He is zealous for Who He is and He's zealous because He wants us to be with Him. He wants us to be in His Kingdom for all eternity. In one final scripture, Jesus summed up basically all that we have looked at today in just a few verses. Luke 10:25-28 in closing, out of the New Living Translation.

**Luke 10:25** *One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"*  
26) *Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"*  
27) *The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. 'And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*  
28) *"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"* (NLT)