The LORD Is Jealous

The LORD is

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” – A.W. Tozer

Nahum 1:1-8 (ESV)

An oracle concerning Ninevah. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh. 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. 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. He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers. The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

God Is Simple

God’s being is not a collection of attributes added together, nor are God’s attributes merely additions to His real being

God is all that He is, always and everywhere

Exodus 3:13-14 (ESV)

Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

John 8:58 (ESV)

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

Two Major Mistakes We Make In Our Thinking About God

#1 We try to pick and choose what we like and do not like about God

#2 We project onto God, our own character, emotions and actions

Psalm 50:21 (ESV)

These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV)

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The LORD Is A Jealous And Avenging God

What did the Ninevites think about God?

God’s jealousy, anger, wrath, and vengeance are very different from ours.

Our Junky Jealousy

James 3:14 (ESV)

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heats, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

The Ninevites failed to think rightly about God, because they failed to understand that God is jealous, and that His jealousy is both just and joyful

The Justice Of God’s Jealousy

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!” – Abraham Kuyper

Psalm 24:1-2 (ESV)

The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

The Joy Of God’s Jealousy

Exodus 20:1-6 (ESV)

And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. 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. 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 fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

A husband who is not jealous for his bride is a husband who does not love his wife

*The joy of God’s jealousy is the joy of delighting in the vow, “I am yours, and you are mine.”*

Hosea 2:14-16 (ESV)

Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’

Isaiah 43:1b (ESV)

“I have called you by name, you are mine.”

What Is Godly Jealousy?

2 Corinthians 11:2-4 (ESV)

For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Pure Presentation

Pure Devotion

Pure Gospel

Isaiah 40:1-2 (ESV)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.