

I Am Jealous

“The Lord said of Himself: For the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous (impassioned) God.” (Exodus34:14 Amp.)

Here then, we see His name and His character spelled out "JEALOUS"; a holy possessiveness to the highest degree of that which belongs to Him. Yet, there is much more to it than just that. As in every face of God we are given the privilege to know there are two sides. Mercy becomes judgment to God's rivals. Salvation becomes damnation when one chooses sin rather than holiness. The Nurturer becomes an Adamant Stone to the rebellious. It is not that God changes, for He says, " I change not." But our choices set us face to face with that part of Him that has to deal with the consequences of our decisions. Even so, the Lord, whose name is Jealous, carries within Himself characteristics of this jealousy which we cherish and yearn for.

The external blessings of being at peace with that name are profuse. All we need to do is look at a few who were at peace with Him to understand. Joseph became number two in the heads of state in all of Egypt. He had a lovely wife and two sons. He became a man of distinctive wealth as well as stature. It was for him that his whole family was granted the finest land in Egypt.

What would need to be said of Moses? Who of us today has such an intimate relationship with "The Lord whose name is Jealous?" Who today is so quickly defended by God Himself when our leadership comes under attack? God made him a leader of a nation, and one of the most beloved men by the Jews and Christians alike for thousands of years. Most importantly, Moses spoke with God face to face, and daily met with Him in the Tent of Meeting. God Himself sent an angel to bury his servant's body. He so meticulously took care of important details both in Moses' life and in his death. This is a relationship that the Bible tells us is available to any who will zealously seek it.

Then, of course, there's Samuel. God let none of his words fall to the ground. God established him in favor such as would ordinarily be given a king. His honor still remains to this day. What about David? He wasn't perfect, but he was God's. Oh, how God loved and blessed him continually. The Psalms pulsate with the overtures of the love they shared. Let us also not forget Paul, Peter, James and John. The bountiful blessings of being at peace with the "The Lord whose name is Jealous" are beyond comprehension. Once you have felt the embrace of God's jealousy, you will never want anything less. He will tolerate no rivals. He becomes like a jealous lover, you might say. You will know Him in ways few others will. He tells you secrets, gives you gifts, but most of all, He makes Himself known to you, and manifests Himself in you.

He isn't like a jealous mate who wants to control your every thought and will never reveal anything about Himself, keeping you at arms length from true intimacy. He simply lets you know how incredibly hungry He is for you, giving Himself to you that you might search out the seemingly unsearchableness of His person. He will give tokens of his love all along the path of your developing relationship. This He does to encourage you to keep moving forward in Him. Yet all this is not without chastisements that will insure the removal of things that would hinder fuller growth.

He says of one who lives in that place, "You are the apple of my eye. If one touches you, they've touched Me." People feel no need to fight for themselves when they rest there, as He does it all, just like the most gallant husbands.

In order to dwell there, however, you must relinquish all desire to control your own future. Your future truly is at rest in His hands. So, you never really look for Him to defend you anymore. In fact, you will even at times find yourself praying that He won't for the sake of your offender.

Yours becomes a life filled with the supernatural. Zechariah 1:14 records Him saying, "Thus says the Lord of Hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great jealousy." It's as though the great Lover woke up, shook his head and found the nations violating His bride. In anger He shouts, "I am jealous with a great jealousy." Watch out nations, you touched the wrong one this time, and I won't tolerate it! ... It is however a picture of something to come...

About eleven years ago, which puts us right at 1985, God bestirred Himself. He looked at His bride in preparation for bestowing blessings, and disgust welled up within Him at what He saw. In one tent, she was playing the harlot with the world and calling herself the queen of heaven. In another tent, she was under incredible bondage and persecution while giving way to compromise hoping to appease God and government. Only a remnant in that tent stole His heart away for her faithfulness in tribulation. In yet another tent, He noticed that she, like Rachel, put His image on the mantel with the rest of her collection of gods, just to be safe. He saw harlotry and greed played out within so many tents around the world, with so few faithful that He was in awe.

Yet He has His way, and the spoiled, but the unfaithful bride must be brought before the courts so that her lewdness can be exposed.

So, He did just that, according to His own law. (Numbers chapter 5) He brought His wife before the priest and caused her to drink of the bitter water that brings a curse. It would follow that if she had been faithful, she would walk away blessed by God and bring forth the fruit of Her womb. If not, the bitter water would be to her a curse. Her thigh would rot, her womb would be closed, and she would swell in ugly disfigurement. She would be cursed by God and know the heart break of her barren womb.

She drank the cup in 1985 and rapidly began to disfigure, and God, as it were, seemed to have closed the womb of His unfaithful bride. Souls were still saved, but sickeningly

few compared to the millions going to hell with a slap on the back from the church who played the harlot with them.

Her beauty has become her shame. There is probably more wealth in the church today than at any other time in history. Yet, strangely enough, more souls aren't being born again with that money. People are just living in more expensive homes, driving more expensive cars, wearing designer clothes, virtually gorging on the lusts and passions of her flesh and boasting about how God has provided all this extravagance so she can better fit in with the world. She foolishly thinks her secret lovers applaud and respect her for her cheap harlotry. She's pouring a cup of the world's water into her waste places that are the size of deserts and can't figure out why it won't satisfy.

Adultery can't satisfy, Church! There is a wounded Lover that was left behind, and He's been aroused.

Why do we boisterously applaud ourselves every time we can rub elbows with something the world has, as though we have improved ourselves? If it meets people's needs, the church should be the innovator, not the follower. If it satisfies passions for anything other than God's, His kingdom, the private family, the family of God, or souls, we should want no part of it. Yet, if people are not spiritual enough to figure that out for themselves, they are already too entrenched in the lie they live. With their mental lists tucked within easy reach, they are well prepared with their justifying arguments as to why, as a child of God, they have the right to live, as do the heathen.

God knows no such thing as carnal possessiveness. His jealous heart is holy, pure, and rigidly righteous. His jealousy feeds the hungry heart of His faithful bride with life, hope, and graciousness poured out in open measure. He becomes her song, filling the air with passionate tones of exquisite melodies of love. He moves her to sacrifices and services which would terrify a mortal, but which are hardly noticed by her as she destroys enemy fortresses from which others run.

But to the unfaithful, God's jealousy is as cruel as Sheol. His life in holy unfeigned fervor for His bride's soul, and He'll take no less commitment on her part. Woe be it to the foolish bride that takes His name in vain, then flaunts her adulterous lifestyle before God's enemies. To that one, His jealousy may be as the curse of death. Oh, that the church would repent, turn to her God, and embrace her wounded Husband, and be healed.

Hell hath no fury like the scorn of a betrayed mate. The "Jealousy" that would have healed and protected us from the coming storm will be the very power that will be our enemy if we don't repent and bring forth fruits that prove the heart.

Heaven's warning is strong!

God is beginning to visit His Church in a holy visitation. When He graces his people with something of this nature, we are immediately thrust into a new level of accountability

and responsibility. When God's holy presence enters, created beings, angelic or human, fall to their faces not because they are told to, but because they are compelled. They are too afraid to talk to Him. One realizes the extent of one's sinfulness in light of an exceedingly Holy God. If your heart is contrite, you deeply appreciate His mercy in allowing you to live, let alone be in His presence. Your love for Him grows immensely because your respect for Him soars into new heights.

Embodied in His holiness is His jealousy. When the Lord visits His church in this way, sharp distinctions become apparent. You're either going to live in Jesus, holy and pure, or you're going to go back to the world. One way or the other, your life will never be the same. This type of visitation is going to be upon us in full force. Although it began a couple of years ago with a few, we began to see in 1991 the beginning of a major impact of this face of God in some nations of the world. We need to prepare by cleaning up our hearts and lives so we don't end up a fatality, as this presence of God continues and moves across America.

The scripture said His jealousy has been aroused. James said to draw close to Him, even grieve over all our unfaithfulness, and He will draw nigh unto us. God is abundantly merciful to the repentant. If His jealousy could be described as a garment, I would say that on the inside of it, we are kept safe and close to His heart. But if we stand far off and unrepentant, we are then on the outside looking in and in danger of judgment. Where will you be dear saint?

- PREPARE -

