

Introduction:

The nation of Israel had left Egypt, an idolatrous country, and were now receiving God's law. The very first thing God did was identify Himself as the God who had brought them out of Egypt, *Exodus 20.2*. It would not be long before they would make an idol and proclaim that god had brought them out of Egypt, *Exodus 32.4*. Man has often forgotten his true God and worshipped some type or kind of idol. The Greeks had their gods, the people of Canaan had their gods (Baal, Asherah, Molech, in total there were 234 deities recorded in ancient writings). Therefore, not surprisingly God in the 10 Commandments starts off by proclaiming who He is and they were not to worship any other "gods." It is *Exodus 20.5* we read "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God." We want to consider this statement by first understanding the word "jealous", second why they and we are to worship no other God, and look at one Bible case where the people did so and its end result.

I) Understanding "Jealous"

A Defining jealous

1. Zelos - literally means "heat", or "warm" as in to warm up to. *Deuteronomy 4.24*
2. Vigilant guarding of a possession.
3. Exclusive in a relationship- God demanded He and He only be worshipped. *2 Corinthians 6.16-17*
4. More modern definitions
 - a. feeling or showing envy of someone or their achievements and advantages.

- b. fiercely protective or vigilant of one's rights or possessions.
5. It should be noted the word translated as jealous is also translated as zealous.

B) Jealous just as zealous can be good or bad.

1. Bad example-A man without cause becomes jealous of his wife, accusing her of unfaithfulness, *Numbers 5.14*.
2. Every other usage in the NKJV is a good usage of the word. *2 Corinthians 11.2*.

C) God is a jealous God

1. God will not share His people, will not be numbered with other gods. *Deut. 32.16*.
2. In our day of multi-everything, multi-culturalism, multi-religion, multi-truth, this sounds odd to say there is only one God and that one God demands we worship Him and Him alone.

II) Bible Reasons For God's Jealousy

A) He is our Creator, *Genesis 1*.

1. Man is a created being, which necessarily mean there must be a "Creator".
 - a. Idolatry often had man being the product of various gods or simply unexplained origin. Evolution makes nature the great force that created man.
 - b. But God says He and He alone is our Creator, because there is no other God, *Deut. 4.39*.

- c. During the days of Isaiah the children of Israel were making images and worshipping them. God plainly tell them everything created was by Him, *Isaiah 44.24*.
2. We are not to give credit to any other gods for our being here. *Isaiah 45.18*.

B) He values His creation

1. He made us in His image, *Genesis 1.26*.
2. He made us for a specific purpose, to be in fellowship with Him. Which means to abstain from sin and seek God's forgiveness when we do sin. *Exodus 19.5-6*
3. We are to be a peculiar people, *1 Peter 2.9*.
4. To worship any other is to commit "spiritual adultery" a sin, Israel committed in the O.T. *Jeremiah 3.8-9*.

C) Other gods do not exist, *1 Corinthians 8.4*

1. To pray, to worship, to call upon any other is to have a false hope.
2. No one else can or will deliver us.
3. The only Savior the Bible speaks of is Jesus. He and He alone is the one who can deliver us, *Acts 4.12*.

III) *1 Kings 18*

A) The Prophets of Baal

1. Offered a sacrifice on an altar to Baal, *1 Kings 18.26*

2. They jumped around and cried out to Baal.
3. But no one answered, *v. 29*.

B) Jehovah

1. Elijah prepared an altar and sacrifice, *v. 30-35*
2. Called upon the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, *v. 36-37*
3. Fire consumed the offering and the altar, *v. 38*
4. The people said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" *v. 39*

Conclusion:

God is not jealous out of inappropriate self-importance, but because He is truly our God. In Him and Him alone we have our being. Can you name any other who's blood was shed on the cross? Who has risen from the dead? Who promised to return and raise all in the graves for the judgement to come? Who will take to heaven those who are faithful to Him?