

EL KANNA: Jealous God

“God’s Passion for His Worship”



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Text: Exodus 34

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Series: Drawing Near to God through His Name
Wednesday night Prayer Meeting

Introduction: Open your Bibles to **Exodus 34**. This evening we are going to see that God is El Kanna. God is a Jealous God.

At first glance, this name appears fierce and negative. Jealousy is bad, right? Who wants a jealous boyfriend or a jealous mother? Atrocious damage is done by the possessive jealousy of a relationship gone bad. But that is not God’s kind of jealous.

What does this mean? God’s jealousy has been defined as “God’s holy and just displeasure.”¹

We were created for one purpose: to worship God! We are going to learn tonight that God is infinitely impassioned that we would worship Him, and that He, not us, gets to define what it means to worship Him and how to approach Him.

Sadly, in the church today, people are caring less and less about what God says in His Word about worship, and they are deciding how they want to worship Him. In fact, there is a growing reluctance to take a definitive stand on *any* issue. Doctrinal conviction is not very welcome in a culture like ours.

Zeal for the Bible and for Jesus Christ is now politically incorrect. There is actually zero tolerance for biblical discernment in a "tolerant" climate like ours. In fact, if you want to almost start a riot, start speaking of Jesus Christ publically. You will rarely hear His Name invoked in a positive way on our airwaves. You can not even invoke His name in prayer any more.²

God is jealous for His own holiness and His own goodness, and all that is right, which is embodied in Himself. He demands that we worship Him exclusively, that we worship Him truthfully, and that we warn those who will not worship Him, that they will be separated from Him for eternity.

¹ Henry, M. (1996). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible : Complete and unabridged in one volume* (Ex 34:10–17). Peabody: Hendrickson.

² See John MacArthur. *The Truth War.*, 2007.

We come to God's covenant with Israel, and with all His people was that they would worship Him alone.

Exodus 34:10–16 (ESV) — “And he [God] said, “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you. 11 “Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 12 Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. 13 You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for **the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God**), 15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, 16 and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods.””

The first thing we learn from this passage is...

I. God Demands Exclusive Worship. “you shall worship no other god” (vs. 14; Isa. 48:8; Jn. 14:6; Deut. 4:23-24).

Because God is a jealous God, it matters that we worship Him alone.

Though God is impassioned about His glory, man, in his fallen nature, does not care. In fact, not caring about God's perfect revelation of Himself has become a religion today. It's called Tolerance!

Tolerance is the most popular word of our day. Everything goes. Everything goes, that is except for Biblical Christianity. There can be nothing that is absolute.

Another word for tolerance in applied to religion is Pluralism. Pluralism is the new religion. We are told that everybody is right. There is not one right way. The only absolute in today's postmodernism is that there can be no absolutes.

This system is the exact opposite of what the Lord has revealed to us in the Bible. The essence of postmodernism is what the Bible calls “lawlessness”. Those who elevate everyone's opinion to an equal level disregard God's law. Tolerance is nothing more than old paganism. It is that “everyone does that which is right in his own eyes”. And no one is allowed to judge anyone else. Jesus says we should be looking for people in our churches.

Turn to **Matthew 7:15–29** (ESV) — “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ 24”

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” 28 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29 for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”

You see, this tolerance stuff is not just in the world, it has seeped into the church. God is **jealous** for Himself. He is **jealous** for the truth of the Word of God. He is a **jealous God**.

God is not rightly worshipped unless He alone is worshipped. God would have us to be completely loyal to Him because He tolerates no rivals.³

- **Isaiah 42:8** (ESV) — “I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.”

In Heaven, day and night, the angels are shouting to one another, “Holy, holy, holy”. God’s holiness has the idea that there is none like Him.

- Jesus said in **John 14:6** (ESV) — “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Deuteronomy 4:23–24 (ESV) — “Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the LORD your God has forbidden you. 24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”

As a jealous God. He will not allow another to have the honor that is due Him alone (Isa. 42:8). Those in Israel could not have friendship or close affinity with those who worshipped other gods, because they would be tempted to worship them.⁴

Pluralism

Though we do have freedom in our country to worship how we like, there are dire consequences in eternity for violating the worship of God. Our Almighty Creator commands that we worship Him alone, and that we come to Him through Jesus Christ. Those who do not will suffer God’s eternal displeasure

Yet there are many in evangelicalism who now say that God’s people can be found in every religion on the face of the earth. That they may not know the Lord Jesus Christ, but they actually are worshipping God, though they be from a pagan religion somewhere. This false teaching is called “evangelical inclusivism”.

³ Osborn, N. D., & Hatton, H. (1999). *A handbook on Exodus*. UBS handbook series; Helps for translators (808). New York: United Bible Societies.

⁴ Henry, M. (1996). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible : Complete and unabridged in one volume* (Ex 34:10–17). Peabody: Hendrickson.

Tony Evans

In 2002 at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, in an interview about his book “Totally Saved”, Tony Evans was asked a question about practicing Hindus being saved apart from Christ.

When asked, “The Hindus who are doing the best they can with the information they have – I’m talking about the Hindus who have never heard of Jesus – never heard of the Savior – never heard of salvation in Christ – the only begotten Son of God – there is salvation for them [practicing Hindus] is what you are saying.”

Evans replied: “If they are not suppressing the truth in unrighteousness”.

The interviewer replied, “You are out there – I’m shocked at this”.

Evans replied: “I understand.”⁵

Speaking of Evans’ book as well as the NRB interview, John MacArthur, said this...

“Obviously, there is no biblical defense for that, and none is attempted in the book—none. There isn’t even a verse to defend that. Furthermore, living up to natural human light, apart from the revelation of the true and living God, wouldn’t save anybody in any dispensation. But, it is a very—it is a very strange thing and, to this degree, to the degree that He gives salvation to those who have never heard the gospel, it’s a departure from what we believe the Scripture teaches. . . . There was a radio interview that followed that book that’s available. You can get the transcript of that radio interview, in which the host was interviewing Tony Evans and said to him, “You’re saying, if a Hindu looks up and says, ‘I know you’re up there somewhere. I don’t know who you are, but I’d really like to know you,’ God will count that as sufficient as salvation?” And the answer to that was “Yes.”⁶

Billy Graham

Billy Graham said this. I quote: “I used to think that pagans in far-off countries were lost – were going to hell – if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that... I believe there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God through nature, for instance – and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying yes to God.” (McCall’s Magazine Jan. 1978).

He also said in Parade Magazine: "I respect other paths to God," (Billy Graham, Parade Magazine, Oct 20th 1996).

God cares that we worship Him, and that we worship Him in the proper way. We cannot worship any God, and if we worship God, we cannot give Him anything we want and come any way we want. God is jealous for His own Name and worship. He is a Jealous God. He is impassioned that all creation worship Him. The heavens declare His glory. The sky shouts His praise. All creatures sing of Him. All except for one. Since the fall of man into sin, all mankind has been born loving self more than God – forgetting God, and forging ahead with his own empty plans and ten thousand idols to fulfill his empty soul.

⁵ Are Those Who Haven’t Heard Really Lost? Backwardly Compatible Salvation. 2002. An interview with Dr. Tony Evans on Christian Television Live (Detroit) by Rev. Glenn Plummer, at the February 2002 National Religious Broadcasters convention in Nashville, Tenn.

⁶ DR. TONY EVANS ON "TRANSDISPENSATIONALISM" is this Biblical? On the Black Preaching Network at <http://abcpreachers.ning.com/forum/topics/dr-tony-evans-on?commentId=916966%3AComment%3A1054635>, by Scott R. Newman.

God's Name is jealous. As I said before, God's jealousy has been defined as "God's holy and just displeasure. He is impassionedly against all that is not holy. His wrath abides on those who do not worship Him.

Spurgeon said, "He who does not hate the false does not love the true; and he to whom it is all the same whether it be God's word or man's, is himself unrenewed at heart. Oh, if some of you were like fathers you would not have tolerated in this age the wagon loads of trash under which the gospel has been of late buried by ministers of your own choosing. You would have hurled out of your pulpits the men who are enemies to the fundamental doctrines of your churches, and yet are crafty enough to become your pastors and undermine the faith of a fickle and superficial generation. These men steal the pulpits of once orthodox churches, because otherwise they would have none at all."⁷

Benny Hinn

One of the ways that God's revelation of Himself is being undermined today is a wolf in the church by the name of Benny Hinn. I want you to listen to an audio clip and see how he utterly invents doctrine and blasphemes the Triune God. "God the Father, ladies and gentlemen, is a person; and he is a triune being by himself separate from the Son and the Holy Ghost. Hear it, hear it, hear it. See, God the Father is a person, God the Son is a person, God the Holy Ghost is a person. But each one of them is a triune being by Himself. If I can shock you - and maybe I should - there's nine of them. Huh, what did you say? Let me explain: God the Father, ladies and gentlemen, is a person with his own personal spirit, with his own personal soul, and his own personal spirit body. You say, Huh, I never heard that. Well, you think you're in this church to hear things you've heard for the last 50 years?"⁸

Isn't that astounding? Yet people all over are buying his books. He's flying around like a Saudi Arabian prince taking lavish vacations. And there are many such false teachers the fleece the sheep. And God is El Kanna. He is jealous that He is worshipped exclusively and truthfully.

II. God Determines our Manner of Worship *"the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God"* (vs. 14; Jn. 4:24; Mal. 1:6-11; Mat. 7:15-29; Gen. 1:27).
Because God is a jealous God, it matters how we worship Him.

A. Our worship is **regulated** by the Word of God. God says "you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God". Then immediately God warns them not to intermarry with the heathen because they might learn their ways and worship other gods or come to God in a way that He has not mandated.

A New Testament passage that speaks to this is found in John 4:24. We must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. We must approach God the way He regulates concerning Himself. The Samaritan woman was misinformed concerning her worship of God. She thought that she could only worship God at Mount Gerazim. Jesus set her

⁷ Charles Spurgeon. From a sermon entitled: "*Under Constraint*," preached Sunday morning 28 April 1878 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London.

⁸ Benny Hinn, Praise The Lord, TBN October 3, 1990.

straight and set the boundaries for the worship of God. Jesus tells us in **John 4:24**, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” That is we must worship God truthfully.

Consider Feminism

Feminism is an attack on God’s order of creation today. **Genesis 1:27**, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

In today’s churches, the distinctions between the genders are being blurred together. Women are taking the place of men, and men are taking the place of women. Today you have churches saying it is ok for a woman to violate Paul’s teaching that a woman should not usurp authority over a man. And we are not only seeing it in the churches, but in the homes as well. Men are no longer the leaders in their homes. Why is that? Because of a casual approach to God. Christians have lost their urgency and passion for God and His truth.

Consider Abortion

Today’s Moloch worship of infanticide is abortion. Many Christians voted for the previous president. I was so thankful for an African American president. But there was a bigger issue at stake. And that was his support of abortion and his strong denials of the Word of God. We ought to be people of conviction.

Consider Sodomy

Homosexuality is becoming normalized in our culture. God calls it an abomination. We ought to blush when it is mentioned. We ought to weep for those who are told it is ok, that God made them that way. God did not make anyone a homosexual, just like God didn’t make anyone an adulterer or a thief. We cannot redefine the Bible to excuse behavior. There are churches that are being to ordain those that have these unnatural relationships. God is jealous for His own holiness, the purity of His church, and that His holiness be reflected in mankind. Those that practice homosexuality will not enter the kingdom of heaven. This does not mean that homosexuals cannot be saved. God can save anyone out of all deviant lifestyles, whether it be thievery, adultery, or immortality. Let us give glory to God that He is a merciful and powerful Savior.

Consider Worldly Worship

One other thing we need to cover. We are to worship God in reverence and in fear. We are not to bring the world into the church. Jeroboam’s sin was that he allowed the people of Israel to worship both the LORD and Baal.

It is popular today to bring the world and entertainment into the church. I think Spurgeon got it right when he said “We ought to be feeding the sheep and not entertaining the goats.

James addresses this. In **James 4:4** God says this: (ESV) — “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Did you hear that? God calls those who are not in a right relationship with him adulterers. He says those who are not in union with Him are ***spiritual prostitutes***.

- B. Worship is to take the **primary** place in our lives. – **Malachi 1:6-11**, “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my

honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ 7 By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’s table may be despised. 8 When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. 9 And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. 10 Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. 11 For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.”

God doesn’t want our spare evenings. He wants all of us. He wants us to be engaged!

III. The Price of False Worship “if your heart turns away... I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish” (Deut. 30:15-26; Ps. 2; Jn. 3:36).

Those who do not come to know the true and living God through His Son Jesus Christ will perish.

We come again to Israel’s covenant with God. God gave them a choice. Look over at **Deuteronomy 30:15–20** (ESV) — “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish...”

Those who would not worship God exclusively in the way He prescribes would perish. The children of Israel could not break God’s covenant or else they would perish. They were to worship the LORD alone and in the way in which He prescribed. They even sang about those who fought against the true worship of God. Look at Psalm 2, what a beautiful messianic Psalm. It speaks of God’s passion for His worship.

Look over at **Psalm 2** (ESV) — “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 6 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” 7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You

shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” 10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

Do you see that we cannot fight against God's exclusivity? We must come to Him through Jesus Christ! “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly [suddenly] kindled” (vs. 12).

You read Psalm 2, and the first thing that is evident are the apocalyptic references. There are visions of Christ coming with a rod of iron shattering the nations like a potter's vessel. Have you ever dropped a dish on the floor and it broke into a million pieces? This is the ease that Christ conquers the nations. It speaks with this apocalyptic language – Christ comes suddenly. It's speaking of the Second Coming. At any moment He could come with vengeance against anyone who does not “Kiss the Son” and worship Him as He prescribes.

God has sent Christ, and He is the exact representation of God. He's the only mediator between God and man.

John says it very simply...

- **1 John 5:12** (ESV) – “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

The price of not worshipping God aright will pay an awful price. John says they will be cast into a burning Lake of Fire under God's holy displeasure and jealousy.

I would remind you of **John 3:36** (ESV) – “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” Christ is the “Way, the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6). We should go from shore to shore and proclaim that Jesus is the way to the Father. Any who try to worship God any other way is a thief and a robber. We should join God in His burning passion that He be worshipped aright through Christ. Any who do not come to God through Christ will have the eternal jealous wrath and displeasure of God resting on them for eternity.

Conclusion:

God's covenant with Israel was pointing toward an even better and more secure covenant. The holiness and strict separation of Israel from the other nations required in the Old Testament Law points us to the fact that God is a Jealous God. The Law could not justify anyone. But it did point to one who could justify us: the coming Lord and Messiah, Jesus Christ. We cannot compromise God's revelation of Himself. We must guard His worship and stand with passionate, heartfelt Biblical convictions that Jesus Christ is the only Savior, and that the Word of God regulates how we worship God. God is **jealous** about this. ***His Name is Jealous!*** We must also be **jealous** too!