

Deuteronomy: God's Covenant People

[#12] *God is a Consuming Fire, a Jealous God* – Deuteronomy 4:12–24

Sermon Outline – October 1, 2017

Children's Sermon: God is Holy!

What does the word "holy" mean?

What does it mean to say that God is holy?

Revelation 4:8, 11

⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "**Holy, holy, holy**, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

¹¹ "**Worthy** are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

There is no one in heaven or earth that is like the Living God!
How do we honor such a God?

The Historical Review

Notes:

The Lord's Powerful Grace in the Wilderness (1:6–4:40)

Moses: Keep the Covenant! (4:1–40)

Find out what God said, then trust it & do it!

1. Obedience (Learn & Do) reveals **Trust** in Yahweh (1-5)
2. Obedience is Beautiful, even to the Nations (6-8)
3. Deliberately Build Trust on the Historical Facts (9-14)
 - a. Diligently **Remember**
 - b. Diligently **Teach** (Cf. Deut. 6:7, 20; 11:19; 31:13; 32:46)
4. **God is a Consuming Fire, a Jealous God (12–24)**
 - a. God revealed himself with words not images/forms (12-14)
 - b. Therefore: Yahweh is not to be worshiped through our eyes, but through listening & obeying his words. (15-20)
 - c. Look what happened to me (says Moses)! (21-22)
 - d. Therefore: Do not forget...Don't make Images!

²⁴ **For** the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Jealous for What?

Isaiah 42:8

⁸ **I am the Lord**; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

Numbers 20:12 (They did not listen & do)

And the Lord said to **Moses and Aaron**, “Because you did not believe in me, to *uphold me as holy* in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.”

What does it Mean, “God is a Consuming Fire?”

How much does this matter to God?

Zephaniah 1:12–18

¹² At that time *I will search Jerusalem* with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘*The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.*’ ¹³ Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.” ¹⁴ *The great day of the Lord* is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of *the day of the Lord* is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵ *A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,* ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷ *I will bring distress on mankind,* so that they shall walk like the blind, *because they have sinned against the Lord*; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. *In the fire of his jealousy*, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Zephaniah 3:8

“Therefore wait for me,” declares the Lord, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, *to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger*; for in *the fire of my jealousy* all the earth shall be consumed.

This is personal to God!

Israel should be careful to treat Yahweh as holy!

How Is Israel to Treat God as Holy?

Represent Him Carefully

¹² **Then the Lord spoke** to you out of the midst of the fire. **You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice.** ¹³ **And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Words,** and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. ¹⁴ **And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules,** that you might **do them** in the land that you are going over to possess.

¹⁵ **“Therefore watch yourselves very carefully.** Since you **saw no form** on the day that the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, ¹⁶ **beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure...**

Do not Confuse the Creator with His Creation

...the likeness of male or female... ¹⁹ And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, **things that the Lord your God has allotted** to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

²⁰ But **the Lord** has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

²¹ Furthermore, **the Lord was angry with me** [Moses]...

Take Care, be Warned!

²³ **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.**

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet... (Pt. 2)

Israel should be careful to treat Yahweh as holy by living a life of worship vs. craving a worship experience.



Why does having pictures feel more compelling to us?

Why are we so prone to confuse Creator with created
in our worship?

Prone to Rob God of His Glory

Romans 1:18–23

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For *his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.* So they are without excuse.

²¹ For although they knew God, *they did not honor him as God* or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Jesus Makes God's Glory Visible!

How do we "Look" at God?

How do we "Look" at Jesus?

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Cf. Colossians 1:15)

⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from *seeing* the light of *the gospel* of the glory of Christ, who is the **image of God**.

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Until Jesus returns, we see God's glory with our ears!



Next Week: True Worship

Isaiah 42:1–8 (Cf. Is. 61; Luke 4:18–21)

John 4:23–24