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Our God is a Jealous and Zealous God.

Exodus 34:14 “Do not worship **any** other **god**, for the Lord, whose name **is Jealous, is a jealous God.**”



Zeal can be defined as “focused desire, characterized by passion and commitment.” The Bible often describes God and His followers as zealous. In the Old Testament (NIV), zeal is found 16 times and zealous 6 times; in the New Testament (NIV), zeal is found 5 times and zealous 7 times (Logos Bible Word Study). Typically, the Hebrew and Greek words for “zeal” or “zealous” also carry an idea of jealousy, specifically God’s jealousy for His people and His honor (e.g., Numbers 25:11; Logos Bible Word Study).

God is described many times as having zeal. God’s fiery wrath is often tied to His zeal and directed toward the enemies of God or those who fail to listen to Him (Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 26:11; 42:11; 59:17; Ezekiel 5:13; 36:5; 38:19).

God’s love is permanent...God’s Anger is temporary.

He judges with integrity and with authority. He will not stand by while there are those who challenge His authority and integrity.

2nd Thessalonians 2:4, “...who (the anti-christ) opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”

GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED! THE JUDGMENT OF GOD IS ON THE ONE WHO ATTEMPTS TO BE EXALTED HIGHER THAN GOD HIMSELF.

Remember what Satan (Lucifer) said before he was thrown out of heaven.

Isaiah 14:12-14, How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You (Lucifer/Satan) said in your heart, 'I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"

Understand the Biblical meaning of all this.

- 1. Satan wants to counterfeit everything God put in place (Creation).**
 - He knows the hierarchy of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).**
 - Therefore, Satan challenges God's holy plans for the church by setting up the hierarchy of Satan (Himself as god, The Anti-Christ vs. The Son of God, and the False Prophet going against the Holy Spirit). The demons and all Satan's followers are his counterfeit church (the unholy kingdom).**
- 2. He wants to set up his kingdom (abomination of desolation) by declaring the Anti-Christ as Messiah (reigning in God's holy city, Jerusalem).**

Don't be misled...the anti-christ will only be doing what his father (the father of lies) has told him to do.

14 Contrasts Between the Antichrist and the Lord Jesus Christ-

- 1. Christ came from above (John 6:38)----Antichrist will ascend from the pit (Rev. 11:7)*
- 2. Christ came in His Father's Name (John 5:43)----Antichrist will come in his own name (John 5:43)*
- 3. Christ humbled Himself (Philippians 2:8)----Antichrist will exalt himself (2 Thessalonians 2:4)*
- 4. Christ was despised (Isaiah 53:3; Luke 23:18)----Antichrist will be admired (Revelation 13:3,4)*
- 5. Christ will be exalted (Philippians 2:9)----Antichrist will be cast down to hell (Isaiah 14:14; Revelation 19:20)*
- 6. Christ will do His Father's will (John 6:38)----Antichrist will come to do his own will (doing Satan's) (Daniel 11:36)*
- 7. Christ came to save (Luke 19:10)----Antichrist will come to destroy (Daniel 8:24)*
- 8. Christ is the good shepherd (John 10:1-15)----Antichrist is the "idol [evil] shepherd" (Zechariah 11:16,17)*

9. Christ is the True vine (John 15:1)---Antichrist is the vine of the earth (Revelation 14:18)
10. Christ is the “Truth” (John 14:6)---Antichrist is the “lie” (2 Thessalonians 2:11 ASV)
11. Christ is “the Holy One” (Mark 1:24)---Antichrist is the “lawless one” (2Thessalonians 2:8)
12. Christ is the Man of Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3)---Antichrist is the “man of sin” (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
13. Christ is “The Son of God” (Luke 1:35)---Antichrist is the “son of perdition” (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
14. Christ is “the Mystery of Godliness: God –manifest in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16) ----Antichrist will be the mystery of iniquity: Satan manifest in the flesh (2 Thess. 2:7).

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8, “Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”

“When I was still with you I told you these things?” Paul was only with the newly established Thessalonian church a few weeks ([Acts 17:1-10](#)). However, Paul thought it was important to teach these brand new Christians about Biblical prophecy, and he taught them in some detail.

And many preachers and teachers in today’s world refrain from preaching or teaching prophecy. Why?

“And now you know what is restraining”:

What restrains the coming of this *man of sin* (the anti-christ)?

For now, Satan and the *man of sin* are being restrained. The principle of their working is now present (**the mystery of lawlessness is already at work**). At the right time, however, the Holy Spirit (**He who restrains**) who restrains their full revelation will be **taken out of the way**.

“Taken out of the way”:

We should not conclude from this passage that the Holy Spirit would leave the earth during the Great Tribulation. He will be present on the

earth during the Great Tribulation because many are saved, sealed, and serve God during this period ([Revelation 7:3-14](#) and [14:1-5](#)) (This can't happen without the ministry of the Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit is **taken out of the way**, not removed. Much like when God removes His hand of protection due to perverted and consistent, rebellious sin(s). Basically saying, "They are moved out from under God's protective hand."

"The **mystery of lawlessness is already at work**": This great principle of evil is already present in the world. It will be ultimately unveiled in the anti-christ, but he does not introduce a *new* wickedness into the world, only an intensity of prior wickedness.

Right now, this **lawlessness** is a **mystery** – that it is, it can only be seen and understood by revelation. Otherwise it is hidden.

"And then the lawless one will be revealed":

Paul states two (2) certain facts about the man of sin; here called **the lawless one**.

1. It is certain that the **lawless one will be revealed** when the Holy Spirit removes His restraint.
2. It is certain that the **lawless one** will be destroyed by the mere **brightness** of Jesus at **His coming**.

Paul probably has [Isaiah 11:4](#) in mind: "*He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.*"

Whoever the man of sin is, he has not had his career yet. We know this because at the end of his career, the man of sin is destroyed by Jesus Christ Himself.

**Sent to Hell...along with his
"Vice" President!**