

Deuteronomy 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

Analysis

The warning 'the LORD thy God is a jealous God' reveals divine intolerance of rivals. God's jealousy isn't petty possessiveness but righteous zeal for His honor and His people's exclusive devotion. The threat 'lest the anger of the LORD...be kindled against thee, and destroy thee' demonstrates that covenant violation brings severe judgment. The phrase 'from off the face of the earth' indicates total destruction—exile, conquest, annihilation. This verse illustrates the Reformed doctrine that God's holiness demands justice against sin. Only Christ's substitutionary atonement satisfies divine wrath, securing believers from destruction.

Historical Context

God's jealous anger manifested repeatedly in Israel's history: plague after Baal-peor apostasy (Numbers 25:1-9), defeat at Ai after Achan's sin (Joshua 7), Assyrian exile of northern Israel (722 BC) for persistent idolatry (2 Kings 17:7-23), Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem and Judah's exile (586 BC) for covenant violation (2 Kings 24-25). These historical judgments validated God's warnings and demonstrated that covenant disobedience brings destruction. Yet God preserved a remnant, maintaining His redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's jealousy as righteous zeal rather than petty possessiveness affect your view of exclusive worship?
2. What does the threat of destruction teach about sin's seriousness and the necessity of Christ's atonement to shield believers from divine wrath?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵכָה	פֶּן יִכְתֹּל	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵכָה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵכָה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵכָה
H3588	H430	H7130	H430	H3068	H430	H6435	H2734
God	thy God	among	thy God	For the LORD	thy God	be kindled	be kindled
H410	H430	H7130	H430	H3068	H430	H2734	H2734
אֵף	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵכָה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵכָה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵכָה	יְהוָה
H639	H3068	H430	H430	H430	H430	H430	H430
you lest the anger	For the LORD	thy God	thy God	thy God	thy God	thy God	thy God
H639	H3068	H430	H430	H430	H430	H430	H430
יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה
H5921	H5921	H5921	H5921	H5921	H5921	H5921	H5921
thee from off the face	thee from off the face	thee from off the face	thee from off the face	thee from off the face	thee from off the face	thee from off the face	thee from off the face
H6440	H6440	H6440	H6440	H6440	H6440	H6440	H6440
of the earth	of the earth	of the earth	of the earth	of the earth	of the earth	of the earth	of the earth
H127	H127	H127	H127	H127	H127	H127	H127

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 4:24 (References God): For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

Exodus 20:5 (References God): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Deuteronomy 7:4 (References God): For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

Deuteronomy 11:17 (References Lord): And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org