

June 29/30, 2024
"God Is Jealous"
Pastor Jeff Manion



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

July: Read Isaiah to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 [Isaiah 9:1-6](#) | Jesus in Isaiah

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

This year, we look for Jesus in the Old Testament to see how God's plan always included Jesus saving us from our sins. This month, we will look at the message of Isaiah and see how it points to Jesus saving his people and ultimately reigning victorious.

Isaiah is one of the most well-known prophets in the Old Testament. His writings have a familiar ring for Jesus's followers. Isaiah's prophecies point to God's grace and love through the coming of Jesus so much that multiple scholars refer to it as the Gospel of the Old Testament. Isaiah serves the Lord during the final years before Israel's Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria (around 722 BC). God sends Isaiah to remind the Southern Kingdom that God promised to protect his people from anyone and anything if they stand firm in their faith and follow his commands. Ultimately, the Southern Kingdom doesn't stand firm in their faith and falls to the Babylonians in 586 BC. Yet, Isaiah's words remind them God is still at work on their behalf.

The word *servant* repeatedly appears throughout Isaiah's writings. He shows how Jesus will work diligently as a servant to accomplish God's purposes despite the many challenges and difficulties Jesus will face ([Isaiah 52:13](#)). Isaiah points to Jesus's birth and what his reign will look like ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#)). Isaiah also reveals Jesus's coming as the Messiah, the anointed one who will redeem his people. The Messiah will reign and bring blessings to the earth ([Isaiah 11:1-16](#)), bring light to those in spiritual darkness ([Isaiah 9:1-2](#)) and will show himself worthy through suffering ([Isaiah 53:10-12](#)). We see all of these clearly in the life of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament.

TODAY: As you read this month, ask God to open your eyes to all the ways Isaiah points to Jesus. Thank God for this beautiful work that revealed Jesus's coming hundreds of years before his birth.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: [Read Isaiah 1-2](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider Jesus's role in the last days.

Day 2 [Exodus 20:1-6](#) | God Is Jealous

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God." Exodus 20:4-5

God says he is jealous near the beginning of his relationship with Israel. He just brought them out of slavery in Egypt and begins teaching them what it means to be his people. Jealousy can make people feel embarrassed. It

is often equated with pettiness, insecurity or envy. But God's jealousy is different. Envy involves wanting what someone else has. But jealousy is rooted in protecting what is yours. God's jealousy is about protecting what is his—and that is his people.

God's jealousy is good news because it benefits us. This week we will look at three ways God's jealousy is good news for us. First, we look at how jealously God protects our relationship with him. Next, we look at the things that compete for our affection and cause God's jealousy. Then we will look at how to identify and replace the things that are the source of his jealousy.

TODAY: Let God know you are grateful his jealousy benefits you. You might pray, "Thank you, Father, for how much you love me and want to guard our relationship. Your jealousy makes me feel secure in how much you value and care for me. Amen"

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 3-5](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 3 [Titus 3:3-7](#) | Rescued for Relationship

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Titus 3:3

When God gives Israel the Ten Commandments ([Exodus 20](#)), he has just rescued them out of slavery in Egypt to be his people. They weren't just rescued from hard work and cruelty. God frees them from the system of Egyptian gods and tells them they are children of the one true living God. The Ten Commandments reveal the framework for their relationship. The first commandment states he is to be their only God ([Exodus 20:3](#)). God is jealous because he rescued Israel to be his own.

God has also rescued us to be his own. He rescued us from sin and death through the sacrifice of Jesus. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul reminds Titus we were all enslaved to sin. But through God's mercy (allowing Jesus to die in our place), he renewed us, gave us the Holy Spirit, the hope of eternity and made us his heirs with Christ ([Titus 3:7](#)). When we understand God rescued us, his jealousy becomes good news. It means we are his dearly loved children with whom he wants a relationship. And he will protect that relationship.

TODAY: Consider how God has rescued you through Jesus. Review [Titus 3:3-7](#) and make two columns in your journal. In the first column, list what the passage says you were like before you trusted in Christ. In the second column, list what Jesus has done for you. Then praise and thank God for how he has rescued you. If you haven't trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, you can do that now or contact us at btw@adabible.org to find out more about trusting Jesus.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 6-8](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider the sign of Immanuel and the mention of the virgin birth.

Day 4 [Deuteronomy 5:6-10](#) | Our Counterfeit Gods

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below." Deuteronomy 5:6-8

The Israelites stand on the edge of the promised land when Moses reminds them of their history with God and how they are to be God's people. Idol worship was predominant in Egypt. God's people know more about worshipping Egyptian gods than him. Their only knowledge of God comes through stories passed down from their forefathers. They need more knowledge about God and some structure about how their relationship will

work. This was critical because while the Egyptian gods were behind them, Canaanite gods were in front of them. God makes it clear that he rescued them for a relationship with him alone, not other gods.

We aren't tempted to worship carved images, but we have counterfeit gods. They often come in the form of wealth, pleasure, honor or power. Our intentions might be good. We focus on work to provide for our family. We focus on our children to be good parents. We focus on sports for relaxation. But we can often take something good and make it the ultimate thing. This results in workaholism, idolizing our children or addiction to watching sports. These things give us what we want at first but can become disappointing and harmful. But as the Israelites would learn, identifying our counterfeit gods and seeking God alone for our needs can be incredibly freeing.

TODAY: Identify one or two counterfeit gods most prevalent for you and confess them to God. Thank him for wanting to have a relationship with you. Ask for his help to move away from your idols and closer to him.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 9-10](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the descriptions of the child and the one who will reign on David's throne.

Day 5 [Ephesians 4:17-24](#) | Replace It

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24

The Apostle Paul reminds the early church about what Jesus has done. He teaches them that they are able, through God's power, to put off the old ways that lead them into sin. And then put on their new selves that were transformed by Jesus when they accepted what he did for them on the cross.

Taking off the old life involves naming counterfeit gods and recognizing their limitations to completely meet our needs. Often, a counterfeit god is something we believe will give us meaning, value, significance or security. We think if we could just have *it*, we would be okay. Once we name *it*, we can replace this counterfeit god with the one true God. Trying to make it go away won't work. Instead, we focus on God by consistently reading, learning and memorizing Scripture and through prayer and sharing Christian life with other believers. Focusing on God causes us to love him more. Our taste for counterfeit gods will be replaced by a desire for the real God to fill our hearts.

TODAY: The Spiritual disciplines mentioned above turn us toward God and away from false gods. One spiritual discipline we're doing together this year is seeing Jesus in the Old Testament. You can join in right now by following the Scripture reading plan at the end of each Beyond the Weekend.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 11-13](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the details about the branch from Jesse.