

~EXCLUSIVE DEVOTION (299)

[Hebrew, *qan-na* ']

- What Exclusive Devotion Does Yehowah Require From His
- Yehowah God Tolerates No Rivalry
- Master And Slave Relationship
- Jesus Exclusive Devotion to God

• This expression has reference to the fact that **Yehowah does not tolerate any rivalry, the worship of any other gods**. The Hebrew word *qan-na* ' is used only of God. It means exacting exclusive devotion, jealous.

- You must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting **exclusive** devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. (**Exodus 20:5**) Footnote

See Also JEALOUS, JEALOUSY

- God will not transfer to another the honor due himself.
- I am Yehowah. That is my name, and **to no one else shall I give my own glory**, neither my praise to graven images. (**Isaiah 42:8**)
- To depart from **exclusive devotion** to him would incur the heat of His zealous anger.
- For Yehowah your God is a consuming fire, a God exacting **exclusive devotion**. (**Deuteronomy 4:24**)
- You must not bow down to them or be led to serve them, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting **exclusive devotion**, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. (**Deuteronomy 5:9**)
- For Yehowah your God in your midst is a God exacting **exclusive devotion**, for fear the anger of Yehowah your God may blaze against you and he must annihilate you from off the surface of the ground. (**Deuteronomy 6:15**)

- Israel was regarded as being married to Yehowah. As a husband, Yehowah claimed **exclusive devotion**, loyalty, fidelity from Israel. He would be zealous, full of ardor in her behalf, in her defense.
- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Certainly in the fire of my zeal I will speak against the remaining ones of the nations and against Edom, all of it, those who have given my land to themselves as a possession with the rejoicing of all the heart, with scorn in the soul, for the sake of its pasture ground and for the plunder. (**Ezekiel 36:5**)
- Conversely, disobedience, going after other gods, would be adultery, thereby meriting Yehowah's righteous anger and his jealousy for his own name.
- They began inciting him to jealousy with strange gods. With detestable things they kept offending him. (**Deuteronomy 32:16**)
- They, for their part, have incited me to jealousy with what is no god. They have vexed me with their vain idols. And I, for my part, shall incite them to jealousy with what is no people. With a stupid nation I shall offend them. (**Deuteronomy 32:21**)
- And I will judge you with the judgments of adulteresses and women shedding blood, and I will give you the blood of rage and jealousy. (**Ezekiel 16:38**)
- And I will bring my rage to its rest in you, and my jealousy must turn away from you, and I will stay quiet and I shall no more feel offended. (**Ezekiel 16:42**)

•• What Exclusive Devotion Does Yehowah Require From His Servants

- The word **exclusive** is from the Latin, *exclusus*, meaning altogether shut out. **Devotion** means strong attachment and ardent love. **Exclusive devotion**, therefore, means **keeping others out of, or excluded from, God's position in our hearts and actions**. Everyone and everything else stays outside this honored position that only he can hold.

•• Yehowah God Tolerates No Rivalry

- **Exclusive devotion** is demanded by Yehowah in the second of the Ten Words or Ten Commandments written by the finger of God; I am

Yehowah your God. You must never have any other gods against my face [or, any other gods in defiance of me, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting **exclusive devotion.**

- I am Yehowah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slaves. (**Deuteronomy 5:6**)
- You must never have any other gods against my face. (**Deuteronomy 5:7**)
- You must not make for yourself a carved image, any form like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. (**Deuteronomy 5:8**)
- You must not bow down to them or be led to serve them, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting **exclusive devotion**, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. (**Deuteronomy 5:9**)
- For you must not prostrate yourself to another god, because Yehowah, whose name is Jealous, he is a jealous God. (**Exodus 34:14**)
- The **French Drioux Version (1884)** says; **God wants to be loved uniquely**, that is, in a class by himself, singularly. Jesus supported this view when he spoke to a Jew who tried to test him.
- He said to him; You must love Yehowah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind. (**Matthew 22:37**)
- Yehowah was both God and King of Israel, Head of religion and of State. Therefore, for an Israelite to break the first and second commandments by serving other gods meant that he was committing lèse-majesté, or treason, the highest of crimes, meriting the heaviest punishment.
- On one occasion Israel was engaging in the worship of a false god as well as practicing immorality and, because of Yehowah's full insistence on **exclusive devotion**, was about to be exterminated. But because Phinehas, Aaron's grandson, took swift action in tolerating no rivalry toward Yehowah, Israel was saved.

- Phinehas the son of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest has turned back my wrath from upon the sons of Israel by his tolerating no rivalry at all toward me in the midst of them, so that I have not exterminated the sons of Israel in my insistence on **exclusive devotion**. (**Numbers 25:11**)
- Yehowah's purpose in restoring his people after the Babylonian exile was for his names sake.
- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Now is when I shall bring back the captive ones of Jacob and actually have mercy upon all the house of Israel, and I will show **exclusive devotion** for my holy name. (**Ezekiel 39:25**)
- And they will have borne their humiliation and all their unfaithfulness with which they have acted toward me, when they dwell on their soil in security, with no one to make them tremble. (**Ezekiel 39:26**)
- When I bring them back from the peoples and I actually collect them together out of the lands of their enemies, I will also sanctify myself among them before the eyes of many nations. (**Ezekiel 39:27**)
- And they will have to know that I am Yehowah their God, when I send them in exile to the nations and actually bring them together upon their soil, so that I shall leave none of them remaining there any longer. (**Ezekiel 39:28**)
- For you must not prostrate yourself to another god, because Yehowah, whose name is Jealous, he is a **jealous** God. (**Exodus 34:14**)
- Fenton's translation reads: **The EVER-LIVING is jealous of HIS NAME**. Since he is jealous of his name or **exclusively devoted** to it, he did not tolerate any rivalry by the name of any other god among his people.

.. Master And Slave Relationship

- **Exclusive** devotion also suggests the relation between master and slave. Yehowah as Creator is Owner and Master. He is God by

reason of his creatorship, it is his right to receive exclusive devotion from his created subjects, and they must do his will.

- **The right-minded person, on learning about Yehowah and appreciating his relationship with God, will voluntarily render exclusive devotion from the heart, which is what Yehowah desires. Mere formal devotion or worship he hates.**

- **This people honors me with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from me. ([Matthew 15:8](#))**

- **It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines. ([Matthew 15:9](#))**

- **This relationship and the freewill devotion that Yehowah desires were illustrated in the Mosaic Law. A Hebrew slave was let go free in his seventh year of servitude.**

- **But if the slave should insistently say; I really love my master, my wife and my sons. I do not want to go out as one set free, then his master must bring him near to the true God and must bring him up against the door or the doorpost, and his master must pierce his ear through with an awl, and he must be his slave to time indefinite. ([Exodus 21:5-6](#))**

- **In case you should buy a Hebrew slave, he will be a slave six years, but in the seventh he will go out as one set free without charge. ([Exodus 21:2](#))**

- **But if the slave should insistently say; I really love my master, my wife and my sons. I do not want to go out as one set free. ([Exodus 21:5](#))**

- **Then his master must bring him near to the true God and must bring him up against the door or the doorpost, and his master must pierce his ear through with an awl, and he must be his slave to time indefinite. ([Exodus 21:6](#))**

- **Paul spoke to non-Jews in the Thessalonian congregation about the voluntary shift of devotion made when they became Christians. They ceased being slaves to idols and began to slave for a living and true God.**

- **For they themselves keep reporting about the way we first**

entered in among you and how you turned to God from your idols to slave for a living and true God. (**1 Thessalonians 1:9**)

.. Jesus Exclusive Devotion to God

- Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 2:5**)
- Who, although he was existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God. (**Philippians 2:6**)
- No, but he emptied himself and took a slaves form and came to be in the likeness of men. (**Philippians 2:7**)
- More than that, when he found himself in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes, death on a torture stake. (**Philippians 2:8**)
- Both when he was in heaven and when he was on earth, Jesus appreciated the **exclusive** position of his Father and rendered him **exclusive devotion**. Jesus pointed out that the most important commandment in the Law demanded wholehearted love of God.
- He said to him; You must love Yehowah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind. (**Matthew 22:37**)
- Moreover, Jesus manifested **exclusive** devotion to Yehowah's name and emphasized the fact that his disciples should have the same attitude. In the prayer he taught his disciples, he started off with the words; Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified.
- You must pray, then, this way; Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. (**Matthew 6:9**)
- This **devotion** in Jesus was coupled with burning zeal, as manifested at his cleansing of the temple, where he fulfilled the prophecy, The **zeal** for your house will eat me up.
- His disciples called to mind that it is written: The zeal for your house will eat me up. (**John 2:17**)
- For sheer zeal for your house has eaten me up, and the very

reproaches of those reproaching you have fallen upon me.
([Psalms 69:9](#))

- **Nowhere is Jesus [exclusive devotion](#) to his Father exemplified more than in what is written of him at;**
- **Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. ([1 Corinthians 15:24](#))**
- **For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet ([1 Corinthians 15:25](#))**
- **As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing. ([1 Corinthians 15:26](#))**
- **For God subjected all things under his feet. But when he says that all things have been subjected, it is evident that it is with the exception of the one who subjected all things to him. ([1 Corinthians 15:27](#))**
- **But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone. ([1 Corinthians 15:28](#))**
- **Where it says that, after his heavenly Kingdom rule puts down all other authority and all enemies, he turns over the Kingdom to the Father and subjects himself to Him so that God may be all things to everyone.**