

WEEK 7





DAY 25: HOLY WRATH

Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. PSALM 90:12

Pause

Think about what you know about God's character—holy, just, wrathful. In recognition of who He is, kneel or lie face down as you pray, asking Him to use today's Scripture to teach you more about Himself.

Read Psalm 90:7-12 in your Bible. Re-read verse 12 carefully, then answer these questions:

Was God justified by His extreme anger toward the Israelites? (See "Behind the Story.") Why or why not?

To number your days is to value them and choose to live in ways that please God because you recognize that life is short and know that God hates sin. Who in your life is a good example of that kind of attitude? Why?

<u>DAY 25: HOLY WRATH</u>

Behind the Story

Psalm 90 was written by Moses in response to God's anger toward the Israelites. God had freed them from slavery, but they repeatedly disobeyed and rebelled. Their faithlessness kindled God's anger. The ultimate result of their disbelief was wandering in the wilderness for the rest of their lives, instead of entering the paradise God wanted to give them. These people understood firsthand the cost of sin and the wrath of God.

The Point

God's holy anger toward sin seems extreme to us because we don't understand the horrendous destruction of sin. If we did, we would take our sin more seriously and live much differently.

Respond

God's righteous response to sin is His holy wrath. How would your life be different if your attitude toward sin reflected His? Journal your response. Ask God for wisdom so that you will "number your days" and live out your life in a strong, healthy relationship with Him.

MEMORY VERSE

Read John 3:36 a few times. Then, close your eyes and picture the words in your head. Write them in the air or on a surface with your finger as you try to memorize it.

DAY 26: JEALOUS FOR YOU

Because the Lord is jealous for his reputation, you are never to bow down to another god. He is a jealous God. EXODUS 34:14

Pause

Meditate on the phrase, "He is jealous for me."

Think about times you've seen jealousy displayed or been jealous yourself. Circle the words that describe that situation or the way it felt.

envious

possessive

controlling

angry

insecure

clingy

selfish

greedy

afraid

In our world, jealousy is synonymous with envy. But what does it mean to say that God is a jealous God? Investigate by reading Exodus 34:14-16 in your Bible.

To say God is jealous isn't to say that He's envious. It means that He longs for you to love Him with an undivided heart.

Look back at the passage. Highlight what took the people's hearts away from God.

What things in our world today compete with our total devotion to God? List a few ideas.

What does God's jealousy for your heart tell you about what you mean to Him? Explain.

DAY 26: JEALOUS FOR YOU

Behind the Story

The importance of putting God first in terms of our love and loyalty is a theme repeated throughout the Bible. It is the subject of the first of the Ten Commandments. Old Testament prophets preached it time and again. And Jesus reiterated its significance when asked, "Teacher, which command ... is the greatest?" He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:36-37).

The Point

God wants to be first in your heart. He is not willing to share your devotion with idols of any kind.

Respond

The Creator God of the universe is jealous for you. The One who spoke the world into existence wants your undivided attention, allegiance, and love — your whole heart.

Meditate on how passionately God loves and pursues you, jealous for all of your devotion. Praise and thank Him for that. Journal your thoughts below.

DAY 27: ALL THREE

For he (God) chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. (v. 4)

- ... to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.. (v. 10)
- ... you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (v. 13) EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Pause

Mull over this quote: "Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence." —John Wesley

Read Ephesians 1:3-14 in your Bible. Each time you see one of the names of the Godhead—God, Messiah, Holy Spirit—highlight it.

Ponder these questions:

Clearly, as Christians, we don't just have a relationship with one Person of the Trinity. We have a relationship with a triune God. Look back over the passage. How does it lay that out?

Why is it important that Christians understand this truth: that God is three-in-one, and they have a relationship with all three Persons?

DAY 28: JESUS - FIRST & LAST

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." REVELATION 1:8

Pause

Think about the concept of forever—no beginning and no end. Thank God that there has never been a time when He was not.

ETERNAL adj.

Lasting or existing forever; without end or beginning

Read Revelation 1:7-8 in your Bible. These verses tell us that God is eternal. Consider the questions below to help you debrief that:

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Why would Jesus use this analogy and title to describe Himself? Explain.

Look at the verb tenses used in verse 8. What does the use of past, present, and future tense tell you about God and His eternal nature?

God is the beginning and the end, the first and last. All things begin and end in Him. How does that make Him different from us?

DAY 28: JESUS - FIRST & LAST

Behind the Story

The statement Jesus made to the apostle John in Revelation 1 is significant. In the Old Testament, God was often referred to as being the "first and last," a phrase that signified God's infinite, eternal nature. The Greek letters alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. John's readers would have immediately understood Jesus' claim in verse 8 because of this.

The Point

God is not like us. He is eternal, self-existent Creator of the universe. He always has been and always will be.

Respond

Stop again and really think about the fact that there has never been a moment when God did not exist. He is the Creator and controls the whole sweep of history. In Him, wisdom, power, and truth find their beginning. Let the wonder of His character overwhelm you. Journal your response below.

MEMORY VERSE:

Like to sketch or interested in graphic design? Create a poster that illustrates Psalm 90:2. The time you spend working on it will help you begin to memorize. Then, hang it somewhere you'll see it often.