

Isaiah

God's great motive for loving his people

For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make them his own. 1 Samuel 12:22

I will say to the north "Give them up!" and to the south "Do not hold them back." Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by name, *whom I created for my glory*, whom I formed and made.

Isaiah 43:6-7

Therefore say to the house of Israel, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things [i.e. bring salvation], *but for the sake of my holy name*, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. Ezekiel 36:22

Therefore this what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, *and I will be zealous for my holy name*. Ezekiel 39:25

You will not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a *jealous* God. Exodus 20:5

"A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives or whether he dies—whether he has health or whether he has sickness—whether he is rich, or whether he is poor—whether he pleases man, or whether he gives offence—whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish—whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise—whether he gets honor, or whether he gets shame—for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it—he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he made to burn; and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a sphere for his zeal. If he cannot preach, work, and give money, he will cry, and sigh, and pray. . . . If he cannot fight in the valley with Joshua, he will do the work of Moses, Aaron, and Hur on the hill (Exodus 17:9-13). If he is cut off from working himself, he will give the Lord no rest till help is raised up from another quarter, and the work is done. This is what I mean when I speak of 'zeal' in religion."

- J.C. Ryle, *Practical Religion*, 130