

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S NATURE

Omniscient--God knows all. He perfectly knows all He plans prior to creation and perfectly knows all He creates, past, present, and future. (Deuteronomy 29:29; Job 37:16; Psalm 139:1-6)

Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Job 37:16 Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one perfect in knowledge,

Psalm 139:1-6 O Lord, You have searched me and known *me*.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You understand my thought from afar.

³ You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

⁵ You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶ *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

Omnipotent---God possesses all power. He brings about everything He decides to do with or without secondary causes; there are no sources "beyond" Himself. (Job 38:4-40:2; Job 42:2; Psalm 33:6-9)

Job 38 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell *Me*, if you have understanding,

⁵ Who set its measurements? Since you know.

Or who stretched the line on it?

⁶ "On what were its bases sunk?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷ When the morning stars sang together

And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸ "Or *who* enclosed the sea with doors

When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb;

⁹ When I made a cloud its garment

And thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ And I placed boundaries on it

And set a bolt and doors,

¹¹ And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther;

And here shall your proud waves stop'?

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¹² "Have you ever in your life commanded the morning,
And caused the dawn to know its place,
¹³ That it might take hold of the ends of the earth,
And the wicked be shaken out of it?
¹⁴ "It is changed like clay *under* the seal;
And they stand forth like a garment.
¹⁵ "From the wicked their light is withheld,
And the uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶ "Have you entered into the springs of the sea
Or walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷ "Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
¹⁸ "Have you understood the expanse of the earth?
Tell *Me*, if you know all this.

¹⁹ "Where is the way to the dwelling of light?
And darkness, where is its place,
²⁰ That you may take it to its territory
And that you may discern the paths to its home?
²¹ "You know, for you were born then,
And the number of your days is great!
²² "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
Or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,
²³ Which I have reserved for the time of distress,
For the day of war and battle?
²⁴ "Where is the way that the light is divided,
Or the east wind scattered on the earth?

²⁵ "Who has cleft a channel for the flood,
Or a way for the thunderbolt,
²⁶ To bring rain on a land without people,
On a desert without a man in it,
²⁷ To satisfy the waste and desolate land
And to make the seeds of grass to sprout?
²⁸ "Has the rain a father?
Or who has begotten the drops of dew?
²⁹ "From whose womb has come the ice?
And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth?
³⁰ "Water becomes hard like stone,
And the surface of the deep is imprisoned.

³¹ "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades,
Or loose the cords of Orion?
³² "Can you lead forth a constellation in its season,
And guide the Bear with her satellites?

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³³ “Do you know the ordinances of the heavens,
Or fix their rule over the earth?

³⁴ “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
So that an abundance of water will cover you?

³⁵ “Can you send forth lightnings that they may go
And say to you, ‘Here we are’?

³⁶ “Who has put wisdom in the innermost being
Or given understanding to the mind?

³⁷ “Who can count the clouds by wisdom,
Or tip the water jars of the heavens,

³⁸ When the dust hardens into a mass
And the clods stick together?

³⁹ “Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

⁴⁰ When they crouch in *their* dens
And lie in wait in *their* lair?

⁴¹ “Who prepares for the raven its nourishment
When its young cry to God
And wander about without food?

Job 39 “Do you know the time the mountain goats give birth?
Do you observe the calving of the deer?

² “Can you count the months they fulfill,
Or do you know the time they give birth?

³ “They kneel down, they bring forth their young,
They get rid of their labor pains.

⁴ “Their offspring become strong, they grow up in the open field;
They leave and do not return to them.

⁵ “Who sent out the wild donkey free?
And who loosed the bonds of the swift donkey,

⁶ To whom I gave the wilderness for a home
And the salt land for his dwelling place?

⁷ “He scorns the tumult of the city,
The shoutings of the driver he does not hear.

⁸ “He explores the mountains for his pasture
And searches after every green thing.

⁹ “Will the wild ox consent to serve you,
Or will he spend the night at your manger?

¹⁰ “Can you bind the wild ox in a furrow with ropes,
Or will he harrow the valleys after you?

¹¹ “Will you trust him because his strength is great
And leave your labor to him?

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¹² “Will you have faith in him that he will return your grain
And gather *it from* your threshing floor?

¹³ “The ostriches’ wings flap joyously
With the pinion and plumage of love,

¹⁴ For she abandons her eggs to the earth
And warms them in the dust,

¹⁵ And she forgets that a foot may crush them,
Or that a wild beast may trample them.

¹⁶ “She treats her young cruelly, as if *they* were not hers;
Though her labor be in vain, *she* is unconcerned;

¹⁷ Because God has made her forget wisdom,
And has not given her a share of understanding.

¹⁸ “When she lifts herself on high,
She laughs at the horse and his rider.

¹⁹ “Do you give the horse *his* might?
Do you clothe his neck with a mane?

²⁰ “Do you make him leap like the locust?
His majestic snorting is terrible.

²¹ “He paws in the valley, and rejoices in *his* strength;
He goes out to meet the weapons.

²² “He laughs at fear and is not dismayed;
And he does not turn back from the sword.

²³ “The quiver rattles against him,
The flashing spear and javelin.

²⁴ “With shaking and rage he races over the ground,
And he does not stand still at the voice of the trumpet.

²⁵ “As often as the trumpet *sounds* he says, ‘Aha!’
And he scents the battle from afar,
And the thunder of the captains and the war cry.

²⁶ “Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars,
Stretching his wings toward the south?

²⁷ “Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up
And makes his nest on high?

²⁸ “On the cliff he dwells and lodges,
Upon the rocky crag, an inaccessible place.

²⁹ “From there he spies out food;
His eyes see *it* from afar.

³⁰ “His young ones also suck up blood;
And where the slain are, there is he.”

Job 40 Then the Lord said to Job,

² “Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty?
Let him who reproves God answer it.”

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Job 42:2 "I know that You can do all things,
And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

Psalms 33:6-9 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;
He lays up the deeps in storehouses.
⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord;
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
⁹ For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast.

Omnipresent--God is present to Himself and to every "there" in the created universe (everywhere) at all times and in the totality of His attributes, which is His character. (Proverbs 15:3; Jeremiah 23:23-24)

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place,
Watching the evil and the good.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 "Am I a God who is near," declares the Lord,
"And not a God far off?
²⁴ "Can a man hide himself in hiding places
So I do not see him?" declares the Lord.
"Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the Lord.

Eternal-God has no beginning and no end. He is not confined to the finiteness of time or to man's reckoning of time. He is, in fact, the cause of time. (Deuteronomy 32:40; Revelation 1:8; Isaiah 57:15)

Deuteronomy 32:39-40 'See now that I, I am He,
And there is no god besides Me;
It is I who put to death and give life.
I have wounded and it is I who heal,
And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.
'Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven,
And say, as I live forever,

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

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One
Who lives forever, whose name is Holy,
"I dwell *on* a high and holy place,
And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit
In order to revive the spirit of the lowly
And to revive the heart of the contrite.

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Immutable--God is the same in His nature, character, and will before time was created and after it. He doesn't change and He causes all change. (Psalm 102:25-27; Isaiah 45:7; Malachi 3:6; and Hebrews 13:8)

Psalms 102:25-27 - "Of old You founded the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.
²⁶ "Even they will perish, but You endure;
And all of them will wear out like a garment;
Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.
²⁷ "But You are the same,
And Your years will not come to an end.

Isaiah 45:7 The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating calamity;
I am the Lord who does all these.

Malachi 3:6 "For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

Incomprehensible--God, including His nature and acts, is beyond the comprehension of any creature. Man understands only what God chooses to reveal about Himself, His purposes, and His ways. (Job 11:7; Romans 11:33)

Job 11:7 "Can you discover the depths of God?
Can you discover the limits of the Almighty?

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Self-existent--God depends on nothing for His existence. The whole basis of His existence is within Himself. Before time, nothing but God existed. He added nothing to Himself by creating. (John 1:1-3; Exodus 3:14 "I AM" is *hayah*, which means "to exist"; John 5:26)

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;

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Self-sufficient-God acts out His will without assistance. Although He uses creatures, it is His good pleasure, not His need, that governs His choices. (Psalm 50:7-12; Acts 11:24-25; Romans 11:36)

Psalm 50:7-12 "Hear, O My people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you;
I am God, your God.
⁸ "I do not reprove you for your sacrifices,
And your burnt offerings are continually before Me.
⁹ "I shall take no young bull out of your house
Nor male goats out of your folds.
¹⁰ "For every beast of the forest is Mine,
The cattle on a thousand hills.
¹¹ "I know every bird of the mountains,
And everything that moves in the field is Mine.
¹² "If I were hungry I would not tell you,
For the world is Mine, and all it contains.

Acts 17:24-25 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;

Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

Infinite-God is not bound or limited by anything in or the totality of His created universe. (1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 145:3)

1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!

Psalm 145:3 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable

Transcendent---God is above His creation. He exists before creation, during creation, and would exist if He decided to annihilate it. (Isaiah 43:10; 55:8-9)

Isaiah 43:10 "You are My witnesses," declares the Lord,
"And My servant whom I have chosen,
So that you may know and believe Me
And understand that I am He.
Before Me there was no God formed,
And there will be none after Me.

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Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.
⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Sovereign-God totally, supremely, and preeminently rules over all His creation. No person, place, or thing is independent of His foreknown plan and providence! (Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:34-35; Isaiah 40:23; 46:8-11)

Psalms 103:19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens,
And His sovereignty rules over all.

Daniel 4:34-35 "But at the end of [that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;
For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.
³⁵ "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven
And *among* the inhabitants of earth;
And no one can ward off His hand
Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

Isaiah 40:23 He *it is* who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.

Isaiah 46:8-11 "Remember this, and be assured;
Recall it to mind, you transgressors.
⁹ "Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,
¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, 'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';
¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east,
The man of My purpose from a far country.
Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.
I have planned *it*, *surely* I will do it.

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Holy - God is morally, excellently, and perfectly pure. (Leviticus 19:2; Job 34:10; Isaiah 47:4; and Isaiah 57:15)

Leviticus 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

Job 34:10 "Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding.
Far be it from God to do wickedness,
And from the Almighty to do wrong.

Isaiah 47:4 Our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is His name,
The Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One
Who lives forever, whose name is Holy,
"I dwell *on* a high and holy place,
And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit
In order to revive the spirit of the lowly
And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Gracious - God extends favor toward man in spite of his sin. (Exodus 34:6-7; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Luke 2:40; 2 Corinthians 12:9)

Exodus 34:6-7 Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed,
"The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and
abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for
thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means
leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on
the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

2 Chronicles 30:9 For if you return to the Lord, your brothers and your sons *will find* compassion before those who led them captive and will return to this land. For the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate, and will not turn *His* face away from you if you return to Him."

Luke 2:40 The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

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Righteous - God is absolutely and immutably right, not wrong. His thoughts, His choices, and His actions are right. Because He's above the Law, whatever He does is right by definition. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 119:142)

Deuteronomy 32:4 "The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Psalm 119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,
And Your law is truth.

Just - God rewards righteousness and punishes sin proportionate to His love of the former and His hatred of the latter. (Psalm 89:14; Numbers 14:18; 23:19; Romans 9:14)

Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
Lovingkindness and truth go before You.

Numbers 14:18 'The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.'

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent;
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Romans 9:14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

Merciful - God compassionately either reduces the punishment of or does not punish those who have opposed His will in their pursuit of their own ways. (Psalm 86:15; Lamentations 3:22-23, Psalm 145:8-9)

Psalm 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Lamentations 3:22-23 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,
For His compassions never fail.
²³ *They* are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

Psalm 145:8-9 The Lord is gracious and merciful;
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. ⁹ The Lord is good to all,
And His mercies are over all His works.

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Slow to Anger - God is immutably patient, not "short-tempered." His anger is not intermittent, cyclical, or caused by some external sovereign agent like man's sin; rather it's His steady and determined pressure on those who disobey Him. (Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; 2 Peter 3:9)

Numbers 14:18 'The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.'

Psalm 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Psalm 103:8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

Psalm 145:8 The Lord is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Wise - God plans perfect means and ends for His creatures. He fits things together for the sake of man's destiny. He tells man the smart way to run his life. Throughout Proverbs, wisdom is contrasted with foolishness. (Isaiah 40:28; Daniel 2:20)

Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.

Daniel 2:20 "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
For wisdom and power belong to Him

Loving - God not only loves, He *is* love according to 1 John 4:8. He gives Himself to and for others, even to laying down the life of His Son. He wills His creatures' highest good. This love is not based on the worth, response, or merit of the object being loved. (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:8; John 3:16; Ephesians 3:17-19)

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Ephesians 3:17-19 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Good - In His goodness God gives to others not according to what they deserve but according to His good will and kindness toward them. (2 Chronicles 5:13; Psalm 106:1)

2 Chronicles 5:13 in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the Lord *saying*, "*He* indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting," then the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud,

Psalm 106:1 Praise the Lord!
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Wrathful - God hates all that is unrighteous and He punishes all unrighteousness. Whatever is inconsistent with His holy standard must ultimately be atoned for or consumed. (Romans 1:18; John 3:36; 2 Chronicles 19:2; Colossians 3:5-6; Revelation 15:7)

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

2 Chronicles 19:2 Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord and so *bring* wrath on yourself from the Lord?

Colossians 3:5-6 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

Revelation 15:7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.

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Truthful - God's Spirit "is the truth" and all that God says "is true and not a lie" whether man chooses to believe or not. (1 John 5:6; 2:27; Numbers 23:19; John 17:17; and Titus 1:2)

1 John 5:6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

1 John 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent;
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Titus 1:2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Faithful - God is always true to His promises. Since He cannot lie, He does not draw back from promises of blessing and/or judgment He has made; He is totally steadfast to what He has spoken. Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 Timothy 2:13)

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Jealous - God is unwilling to share what is His. (Exodus 20:3-5; 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24; Isaiah 42:8)

Exodus 20:3-5 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

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Exodus 34:14 —for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God—

Deuteronomy 4:24 For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord, that is My name;
I will not give My glory to another,
Nor My praise to graven images