

***Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.***  
**(Col 2:8)**

Well, we've made it through another week of living in Glubbudubdrib. Words like "woman" have apparently fallen out of the standard language of news organizations, it is now unreasonable to think that if your daughter signs up to compete in a woman's sporting event, she won't be pitted against men and not be exposed to naked men in their locker rooms. Ford is redefining "tough" to mean "effeminate" so they can attach themselves to the fag pride month we're getting started with.

Friends, the world is essentially upside down, and as vexing as it is, we have to remember that the perfection of our King's kingdom can't come without first deconstructing its current order. I am reminded of this verse

*"Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you."* (Hab 1:5)

Is this not an accurate description of the days in which we live? While this verse referenced the rise of the Chaldeans, the ridiculousness of these days in which we live is simply not believable if you're not directly witnessing the events of them. The absolute twisting of language to satisfy whatever crazy lust consumes a person, so that up is down and down is up, the suspension of reality is so insane that if you were trying to describe it to your past self from even 2 or 3 years ago, your past self wouldn't believe it.

The world which we find ourselves occupying is engaged in an all-out war with our God and King. As His Ambassadors we can't let up in defending Him and His truth. We are His occupying force. We can't let up on that task.

*"And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy till I come.**"* (Luk 19:13)

The term translated "occupy" is *pragmateuomai* in the Greek and is only used this one time. It means "to busy oneself" and in modern translation "deal with". Our master has told us to busy ourselves with His business while He is away, and we can't let the overwhelming nature of what is happening around us discourage us out of the work or cause us to detour away from it.

The suddenly popular backlash against "tuck-wear" at Target and bozos shooting up their Bud Light is a thing to easily get distracted by while we discern the signs. These loud voices who have stood by why all the other letters of LGBTQIA+?!& have worked their way to acceptability might seem attractive as allies. They might appear to have

common cause with us. Remember their motivation is not in keeping the master's honor and operating as His ambassadors while He is away. Their motivation is in protecting the things they hold dear in their deepest flesh – their “manliness”, their sports, their booze, etc. There is nothing spiritual in their words or deeds. We may have common cause with them to an extent, but it is limited. They don't want to hear about the God of Heaven's view on these things – if they did, they would have allied themselves to our words long ago and their words today would address spiritual matters. Don't get me wrong, I'm listening and watching these folks who have come out of the woodwork hoping they talk about more than “safe spaces” and the attack transgenderism is on so-called “women's rights”. I don't want to disregard a willing worker who has come at the eleventh hour. But so far, I'm not seeing anyone that gets me excited. The resistance here is all in the flesh, not resisting sin. They are fired up only because this false god has come for their other idols.

Remember we've told them this monster was coming for their children and how this was going to go, and many of these same folks mocked and vilified us. While they may say true words about transgenderism, this downward slide didn't start at transgenderism. Transgenderism is just the latest deception of Satan designed to rebel against God's ways. Now that it's unreservedly coming for their children, a few of the louder voices are speaking up. Good for them, they really do care about something that matters, now they need to bring their focus sharply onto God's standards.

When I mentioned the idea of passing their children through the fires to Molech a few weeks ago in my video news, I got some questions about what that meant. I think that as a concept it is a very appropriate subject of study. So, I'm hoping to explain what that reference means and why I made it.

First, it's helpful if we look at the references to Molech and the historical facts of the matter.

When the Jews were given the law, there were many things they were enjoined from doing.

*“After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.” (Lev 18:3)*

That's pretty plain – don't be like those people you know so intimately (Egypt) and don't get enamored with the interesting things of the people of this new land (Canaan).

Interestingly, as if this general admonition wasn't enough (as you'll see later with the children of Israel, it rarely is), God has a few specific behaviors He explicitly calls out to avoid. One of these is the passing of their children through fire to Molech.

*“And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.” (Lev 18:21)*

Now, it probably goes without saying that the Lord isn't telling His people to keep their children away from fire in some general sense. That's clearly not the point here.

He had already warned them generally against the ways of the Egyptians and Canaanites, meaning their gods and cultural practices. This cannot be just a generic warning, and the fact this is explicitly called out should draw the eye to it all the more. To partake in these practices is later named as a capital offense:

*“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones. And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name. And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not: Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people.” (Lev 20:1-5)*

So a few things are worth making additional note of here

- “Again” – this prohibition is explicitly repeated, called out as independently given again not just a repeating of the previous instructions.
- The behavior is called out differently here as *giving their seed*, the specific ritual of *passing through the fire* isn't named as such, but the intent of the ritual is – this I think is key to understanding the warning.
- The seriousness of the offense cannot be denied. Anything that gets you stoned to death is a dire thing. But there's more to it than that – not only does giving your children to Molech get *you* stoned, but it gets your entire line cut off. Your line is done, and God will have no further fellowship with you as one of His people. This is a dire and drastic thing to have done, this cutting off of a man and his line, reserved for those things that were the absolutely most egregious to God – not always the most egregious to men. There is generally a spiritual offense wrapped up in its commission. That makes this especially egregious.
- The danger and punishment of being cut off applies not just to those who practice this abomination, but to those who ignore the behavior, who “hide their eyes” from it. Those who turn a blind eye to this grave sin become complicit and while not suffering the immediate death stroke of those who commit it, they have no future. That ought to scare you into being diligent.

- The declaration against children being passed through the fire to Molech is embedded in a list of immoral sexual practices. That seems to cause confusion for a few expositors, because they get overly concerned with putting their labels and structure onto the words, Leviticus 18 is not a chapter “about” sexual practices. It is an admonition against defiling oneself before God. All the practices listed in this chapter defile you in God’s view if you participate in them because they plainly violate the natural order of His creation. Handing your children to a false god belongs here naturally, because it defiles you in the eyes of your creator the same way filthy sexual practices do.

Of all the pagan and false practices of the people of Canaan, this “passing through the fire” is referenced specifically several times. This is not a simple thing to be taken lightly and deserves attention. Idolatry and false gods are obviously mentioned many, many times. I mean this specific practice, the “passing through the fire” is called out repeatedly as not to be done, but as a behavior unfortunately practiced by the children of Israel widely.

Worship of Molech was a snare in the days of Solomon to him, and through him to the nation as a whole

*“Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.” (1Ki 11:7)*

This may be where it started, but departing from God to the pagan ways of Molech was such a notorious thing that Stephen speaks of it in his final sermon, which should additionally draw the eye to seeing that there is more than just a small, casual issue here.

*“Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.” (Act 7:43)*

So passing your children through the fires to Molech, or giving your seed to him was a grievous sin that afflicted the Israelites from the time they came out of Egypt – and is preserved in the Word as an instructive warning to us even today. But what was it exactly?

The details depend on who you read, and ultimately I’m going to say that the intent and the ritual were more important than the physical logistics, per se. Some translations say “not to let you children be made sacrifice to Molech” rather than “pass through the fire”. That is an oversimplification of what is going on here, I believe. It is sacrifice, but there is more here than just killing your children, even in the “service” of some god. As a note here, I have heard and read people declare that the grievous sin of abortion is

what is referenced here. I believe that to be incorrect in a number of ways. It is murder certainly, it is horrific sin, absolutely, but it is not this thing called out here, which I hope to make evident as we progress through this discussion.

There are Jewish writers that try to sanitize the whole thing and make it out that this was just a simple ritual to bring prosperity where people had their children walk through two pots of fire symbolically. If that were the case, that would have been enough to draw the wrath of God, certainly and without a doubt. But that's a disingenuous representation at best.

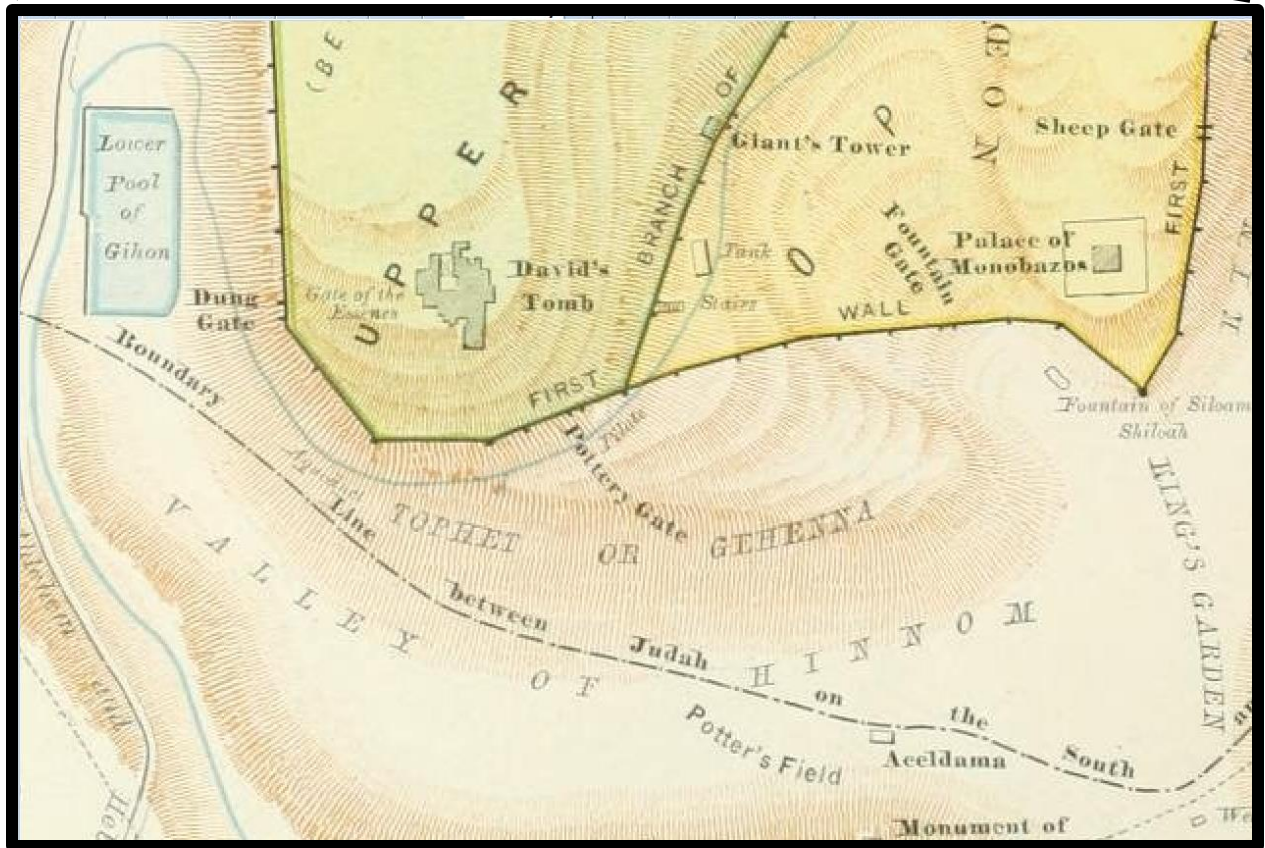
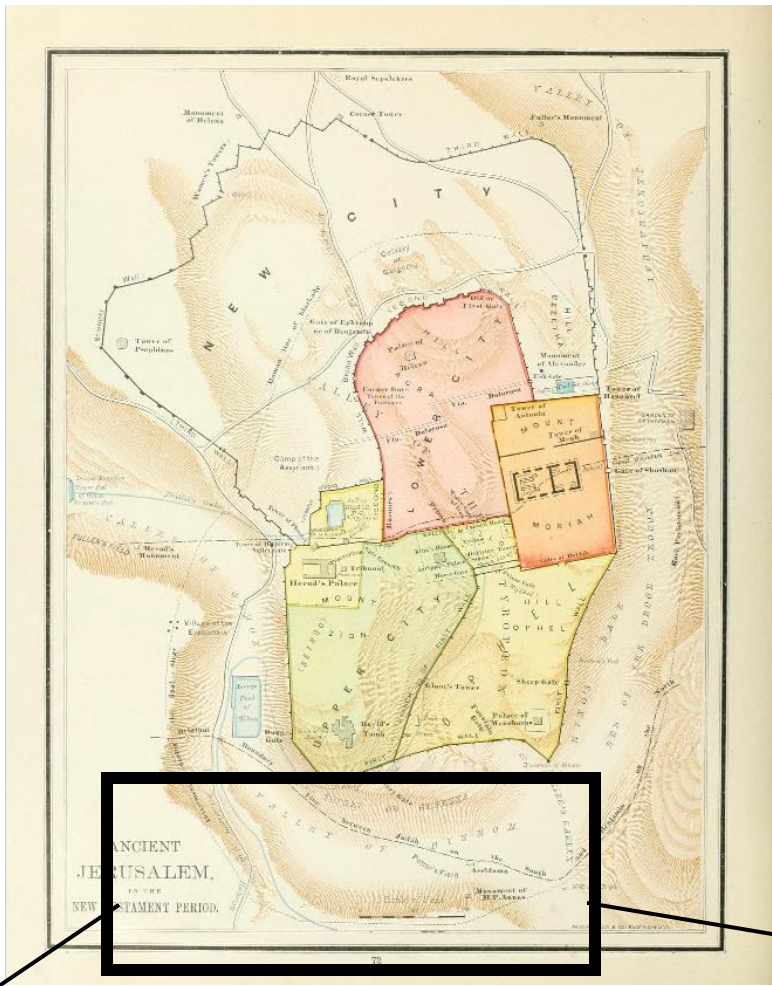
There was a place outside the walls of Jerusalem that different writers locate slightly differently, but it was certainly there, likely in the southern part of the city, as it is referenced as Hinnom, or the Valley of Hinnom, and most knowledgeable people seem to agree that the valley of Hinnom is there on the south side of Jerusalem (see the map on the next page). In this valley, there was a place called Tophet. That word comes from a root meaning "to strike as in a tabret or drum". Out of these events it has also come to mean a place of cremation. Without taking you down all the rabbit trails here, in these rituals, loud drumming and tabret playing was used to drown out the screams of the children being passed through a very literal fire.

We know it was here that the children were made to pass through the fire because we are told this is where Manasseh specifically did it

*"And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger." (2Ch 33:6)*

And when Josiah put at least a temporary stop to it, it was going on in the same place

*"And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech." (2Ki 23:10)*



Exactly how these sacrifices looked is unclear. I don't buy some of the historical analysis out there, as it is largely based on child sacrifice in Carthage, which happened well after this strict admonition is made to the children of Israel. In the Carthaginian sacrifices, it is believed that the children were placed on the hands of a large metal statue that had the body of a man and the head of a bull; the statue was heated by a raging fire in its body. As it's understood, the children were placed on the outstretched hands and they rolled down the arms into the belly of the statue where the fire engulfed them. Depending on your historical source, there are variations on this description, none of which seem particularly complete. The exact specifics I don't think are necessary to understand to avoid violating the admonition – the admonition wasn't against fire, it was the passing through to Molech.

The child was sacrificed to gain favor from not only Molech, but his wife Ashtoreth, who we are quite familiar with as not only Ashtoreth, but Astarte, Diana, Istar and Aphrodite. She was the goddess of lust, fertility, etc. These horrific sacrifices were made to the worst kinds of gods, those focused on fleshly hedonism and material wealth as the highest of pursuits.

When you look at the available details and then look at the admonition here not to “profane the name of thy God” there is more at play than just, dare I say, “simple” human sacrifice. There are many societies and pagan gods from antiquity whose followers conducted human sacrifice. There were Egyptian sects that the children of Israel would have been very familiar with, that sacrificed adults as well as children. If the concern were **just** human sacrifice a more general admonition would have been perfectly appropriate, and the Holy Spirit certainly would have made that general admonition rather than what we have here. There is something requiring inquiry in this “passing through to Molech”.

The Babylonian Talmud says this about the passage

“He who gives of his seed to Molech incurs no punishment unless he delivers it to Molech and causes it to pass through the fire. If he gave it to Molech but did not cause it to pass through the fire, or the reverse, he incurs no penalty, unless he does both.”

Set aside exasperation with the typical legalism of the Jews and look at what this tells us. In their refusal to just take the Lord's commandment on its face, in splitting these hairs – giving a child to the priests of Molech versus giving them to the priests of Molech and making them pass through the fire – we get a sense of what is being enjoined, and I don't think it is simply child sacrifice, not only in the sense of killing your child in front of a pagan idol. There is more to this. I'm not pretending I have a full understanding of exactly what this entailed but I believe there is intent and end results at play, not just chucking your toddler into a bonfire.

These people were passing them **through** the fire **to** Molech. The children were being given to the priests, consecrating them as the next generation of the pagan priesthood. Ezekiel's' enumeration of Israel's abominations specifically calls out this evil

*“Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter, That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them?” (Eze 16:20-21)*

The distinction between slaying the children and delivering them to be passed through the fire is what is significant. There were children who died being sacrificed to these gods, but the goal doesn't seem to have been their deaths; for at least some the goal was to mark them physically and hand them over to serving them in their temples. It is a perversion of what we see here

*“And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.” (1Sa 1:11)*

Where Hannah commits a vow to the Lord, these perverts took their children and devoted them to Molech, sealing it with some form of passing them through a physical fire. Those who survived, in whatever scarred, physically debilitating state they found themselves in were consecrated at a minimum as Molech's servants in his “tabernacles”, and it appears as his priests/priestesses.

This is about as severe an insult to God as you could commit. It is worse than failing in the duty to keep the words before our children

*“Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Deu 11:18-19)*

A person can utterly fail in this duty and not be guilty of the grievous sin of having their children “pass through the fire”. The handing of your children to a false god is not a passive thing; in so doing, you are openly defying and rejecting God. It is a profaning of the name of the Lord.

If you look at all the places where “pass through the fire” is used, you find a common tie to familiar spirits, divination, witchcraft and the worship of false gods. These are all



tightly tied together. Rather than putting energy into causing their children to know the Lord, they actively give them to those false gods they are busy worshiping. They actively teach them to call on these false gods, to worship the dead, to try and communicate with the dead and practice witchcraft.

This treatment of children in this manner utterly disregards the simplicity of this statement:

*“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” (Psa 127:3)*

This isn't just a cute Hobby Lobby sign to hang in your living room. Children don't "just happen"; they are not disposable, they are neither accidents nor trophies to put on your arm. They belong to the Lord, they are His heritage. How you deal with them when you have them is of utmost concern and requires diligent obedience. It certainly requires that you not take that which the Lord has given you and give it to some false god like you're at a swap meet.

So what's the big deal here? It's not like we have kids being dropped into fiery pits and burned alive today. Human sacrifice went out of vogue a long time ago, right?

While we don't have public human sacrifice zones in this country where you take your kids to publicly sacrifice them in fire, can you really argue that the children of this generation, especially in this country, are not being sacrificed to a false god? This is why I used the phrase and draw attention to it. The Holy Spirit didn't say don't "perform human sacrifice" but used this phrase "pass through the fire". This is what pulls my focus away from the specific tactical action – burning a human sacrifice – to what is the goal of it – handing your children over to conspicuously live in the service of a false god. These are children that bear the scars of fire. They are marked by their parents, who rather than protecting them scarred them to be seen and known as Molech's servants – not God's!

Is this nation not sacrificing their children to the god of "self"? These parents are chopping off body parts, chemically castrating their little ones, breaking their God-created bodies to do nothing more than serve this god of self and reject their God! Is this mutilation being done at increasing rates any different than the mutilation done by fire? Nothing is accomplished in this behavior except their children being forever scarred by this parental rebellion. The end result of these mutilations is a life of rebellion, pain and sorrow; drugs, bodily pain, emotional pain, and spiritual despondency all because of a selfish parent who hates God.

This isn't passively ignoring their responsibility – which is bad enough – it is actively and intentionally attempting to execute a coup against the Sovereign of All. Rebellion isn't a strong enough word for what is going on in the generation we find ourselves in.

We are actively watching our society dissolve in front of our eyes. These are precisely the same things that happened to Israel before their destruction. They devolved into this state where sacrificing their children was the norm, not that exception that was frowned upon. Transgenderism is the societal altar to the god of self that children are being sacrificed on, and it is imperative that we speak to it and call it out for what it is – an absolute affront to God’s sovereignty.

And there is a warning for us here. I remind you that this admonition was delivered to the selected and called out people of God to not do this thing; this abomination that ought to have been, on its absolute face, abhorrent and rejected by all men for all time. We’re talking about sacrificing to a false god that thing that should be in the flesh the most precious of all to you. How does a person go from looking at this precious little newborn child to thinking that they need to try and mold them like they’re made of PlayDoh and rearrange their genitalia? It is a strong Satanic pull that draws you to that.

And we could be drawn to something similar. There could be gods we will sacrifice our children to in similar ways. It is impossible in my mind to lay out exactly what that looks like, but if it can happen to God’s chosen nation, it can certainly be a way that the Gentile church is deceived and drawn away.

That’s the thing to remember. Looking at this horrific thing and being horrified by it is not enough. It must be avoided and watched for, guarded and warned against in all ways possible. To not do this leads to desolation:

*“And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the LORD.” (Eze 20:26)*

These who were sacrificing their children were still taking their sacrifices to the Lord; it was Solomon that built the first temple to Molech, remember, drawn away from God by his fleshly lusts. They brought the sacrifices to God’s temple and those sacrifices were polluted by God because you cannot position yourself “between two opinions” (1 Ki 18:21). That is the danger we have to watch out for. We are commended to serve our God with “all our heart and all our soul” (Deu 10:12) and that means there is no room for a false god, and certainly not to sacrifice to those gods our children.

I hope this was instructive and informative.

*“Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.” (2Jn 1:3)*