

Ezekiel 16:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them?

Analysis

Thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire—The Hebrew *ma'avar ba'esh* (מַעְבִּיר בָּאֵשׁ, to pass through fire) refers to child sacrifice to Molech in the Valley of Hinnom (2 Kings 23:10, Jeremiah 32:35). God claims them as **my children**—covenant children belonging to YHWH were murdered and delivered (*natan*, נָתַן, given over) to demons (1 Corinthians 10:20).

This verse exposes the ultimate trajectory of spiritual adultery: when the covenant community abandons God, it eventually sacrifices its own offspring. Psalm 106:37-38 confirms Israelites 'sacrificed their sons and daughters unto devils.' The prophetic parallel to abortion cultures is unavoidable—societies that reject God's lordship ultimately consume their children on the altars of convenience, economic prosperity, or personal autonomy.

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence from Carthage (Phoenician Tophet) and literary references in Diodorus Siculus confirm child sacrifice was practiced in Canaanite religion. In Jerusalem, the Tophet in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom (Gehenna) became synonymous with judgment. Josiah desecrated it (2 Kings 23:10), but practice resumed under wicked kings.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do modern cultures sacrifice children on the altars of materialism, careerism, or sexual autonomy?
2. What is your responsibility when the society around you treats human life—especially the unborn and vulnerable—as expendable?

Interlinear Text

וַתִּשְׁחָטֵהוּ	אֶת	בְּנֵי	וַתִּתֵּן יָמָם
That thou hast slain	H853	my children	and delivered
H7819		H1121	H5414
בְּהַעֲבֹר יָרֵם	לָהֶם:	אוֹתָם	
them to cause them to pass through	H853	H0	
H5674			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 17:17 (Parallel theme): And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.