

Ezekiel 20:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

Analysis

'For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.' God refuses consultation because of ongoing child sacrifice and idolatry. 'Make your sons to pass through the fire' refers to Molech worship. 'Even unto this day' indicates persistence into Ezekiel's time. How can they seek God's guidance while sacrificing their children to idols? The answer: emphatic refusal. Unrepentant idolatry disqualifies from divine consultation.

Historical Context

Child sacrifice occurred in the Valley of Hinnom (Tophet) outside Jerusalem. Kings Ahaz and Manasseh participated (2 Kings 16:3, 21:6). Though Josiah defiled the site (2 Kings 23:10), the practice evidently continued. Archaeological evidence from Carthage and other Phoenician sites confirms widespread ancient child sacrifice.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What modern practices parallel ancient child sacrifice in sacrificing children for adult convenience or ideology?
2. How does harboring known sin while seeking God's guidance demonstrate spiritual schizophrenia?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֵשׁ	בְּנֵיכֶם	בְּנֵי עֵבֶר	מִתְּנַתִּיכֶם	וּבְשָׂא ת-	For when ye offer	your gifts	to pass through	when ye make your sons	the fire
H5375	H4979	H5674		H1121					H784
לְכָל	גַּטְמָא	יְמָם	אַתֶּם	עַד	לְכָל	גַּלְוְלִיכֶם		עַד	כִּי וּמָ
H859	ye pollute	H3605	H2930	H1544	you pollute	yourselves with all your idols	H5704	H3117	even unto this day
וְשֻׁבָּא ל-	בְּ יִתְּ	לְכָמָ	אַדְךָ שָׁ	וְאַתָּה	וְשֻׁבָּא ל-	בְּ יִתְּ	לְכָמָ	אַדְךָ שָׁ	וְאַתָּה
H589	I will not be enquired	H1875	H0	H1004	of by you O house	H3478	of Israel	H2416	As I live
לְכָמָ:	אַדְךָ שָׁ	אַדְךָ שָׁ	וְאַתָּה	H0					
H589	saith	the Lord	GOD	H1875	I will not be enquired				
H5002		H136	H3069						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:31 (Parallel theme): And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.

Ezekiel 20:26 (References Lord): 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.

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