

Jeremiah 7:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The most heinous sin: '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.' Child sacrifice to Molech represents the depth of moral depravity. God's emphatic denial ('I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart') shows this practice was utterly foreign to His character and will. The valley of Hinnom (Gehenna) later became symbolic of hell itself. That covenant people could descend to burning their own children demonstrates total depravity's horrifying potential. This abomination sealed Judah's fate.

Historical Context

The Tophet in the valley of Hinnom served as a site for child sacrifice during the reigns of Ahaz and Manasseh (2 Kings 16:3; 21:6). Josiah defiled this site (2 Kings 23:10), but the practice resumed after his death.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does child sacrifice demonstrate the ultimate perversion of religious devotion?
2. What modern equivalents might exist where children are sacrificed for adult convenience or ideology?
3. How should this extreme evil inform our understanding of total depravity's potential?

Interlinear Text

וּבְנוּ ו	בְּמִוְת	הַתִּפֹּת	אֲשֶׁר	בְּגֵי יַא		
And they have built	the high places	of Tophet	H834	which is in the valley		
H1129	H1116	H8612		H1516		
בְּנֵי־הַסֵּן	הַזֶּה	לִשְׂרֹף	אֶת	בְּנֵיהֶם	וְאֶת	בְּנֵי־הַסֵּן
of the son	of Hinnom	to burn	H853	and their daughters	H853	of the son
H1121	H2011	H8313		H1323		H1121
בְּאֵשׁ	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	צִוִּיתִי	וְלֹא	עָלָה	הֵם
in the fire	H834	H3808	which I commanded	H3808	them not neither came	
H784			H6680		H5927	
עַל	לִבִּי:					
H5921	it into my heart					
	H3820					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 23:10 (Parallel theme): 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.

Jeremiah 32:35 (Parallel theme): And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

Leviticus 18:21 (Parallel theme): 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.

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.

Deuteronomy 12:31 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

Ezekiel 16:20 (Parallel theme): 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,

2 Chronicles 28:3 (Parallel theme): Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

2 Chronicles 33:6 (Parallel theme): 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.

Deuteronomy 17:3 (Parallel theme): And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;