

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

Psalm 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

וְבָנָן	וְבָנָן	בְּמַוְתָּה	בְּמַוְתָּה	הַתְּפִתְחָה	הַתְּפִתְחָה	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	בְּגִיא	בְּגִיא
And they have built	the high places	of Tophet	of Tophet	H834	H834	which is in the valley	which is in the valley	H1516	H1516
H1129	H1116	H8612	H8612						
בְּנִתִּים	בְּנִתִּים	מִן	מִן	לִשְׁרָף	לִשְׁרָף	אֲתָה	אֲתָה	בְּנִיתִים	בְּנִתִּים
of the son	of the son	of Hinnom	of Hinnom	to burn	to burn	H853	H853	and their daughters	and their daughters
H1121	H2011	H8313	H8313			H1323	H1323	H853	H853
בְּאָשָׁה	בְּאָשָׁה	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	עַלְמָתָה	עַלְמָתָה
in the fire	in the fire	H834	H3808	which I commanded	H6680	H3808	H3808	them not neither came	them not neither came
H784								H5927	H5927
עַל	עַל	לְבִנִּים	לְבִנִּים						
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;