



Why Do We Sacrifice Our Children and How Can We Stop?
2 Kings 17:13-18

13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

14 Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

15 And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them.

16 So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

17 And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

On January 22, 1973 the Roe vs. Wade decision robbed the unborn of their personhood, and fundamentally changed the nature of American Law by stating definitively that Americans did not have an inalienable right to life. Instead that right was granted only after the child was born.

"As a result of the Roe decision, a right to abortion was effectively established for the entire term of pregnancy for virtually any reason, whether for sake of personal finances, social convenience, or individual lifestyle..." - William Renquist

Almost 50 Million legal abortions since 1973

3,500 Abortions in America Every DAY

35% of American women have had an abortion.

For every 1,000 live births, there were 312 abortions

A longtime Planned Parenthood employee who had assisted in 35,000 abortions revealed that the organizations long term aim had been to break the natural modesty of girls via school based sex education and their goal was to do three to five abortions for every girl between the ages of 13 and 18.

Abortion is the leading cause of death amongst black Americans. **Twice as many African-Americans have died from abortion than have died from AIDS, accidents, violent crimes, cancer, and heart disease combined.** This is not an accident Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, has called this pattern what it is, a targeted genocide, and the evidence is overwhelming. 80 percent of abortion facilities are located in minority neighborhoods. About 13 percent of American women are black, but they receive over 35 percent of the abortions. But this one of the aims of the founder of Planned Parenthood, the Eugenicist Margaret Sanger who proposed sterilization to cleanse the race, the women had to obtain a permit for having a baby and who wrote things like: *"We should hire three or four colored ministers, preferably with social-service backgrounds, and with engaging personalities. The most successful educational approach to the Negro is through a religious appeal. We don't want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population. and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members."*

Meanwhile one of the other nasty secrets of this hideous industry is just how profitable it is: just in terms of abortions alone, the abortion industry makes over 1.3 million dollars A DAY.

But that is all a matter of *what* we are doing, the more important question is *why* are we doing it? And here in order to get the answer to that question, accurately we need to reflect on the fact that this is not a new phenomenon. Although as society we have brought infanticide to previously undreamed of levels. In the answer today, just as in ancient Israel and Judah

These people, these Canaanites whom they were dispossessing worshipped false gods of their own devising, not the true God who was their creator, and one of the ways they tried to obtain the favor of these idols was by the sacrifice of their own children. The followers of Molech for instance would make an image of their god which was essentially a huge hollow statue with a opening in his stomach.

They would kindle an intense fire in the statue and then they would place their infant children in the outstretched arms of the image, and the infant would then roll by the force of gravity into the furnace. This is what the Lord is referring to when he speaks of them burning their sons and daughters and what is elsewhere in the Bible called "causing your children to pass through the fire."

Sadly, after the Israelites settled in Canaan, they forgot the goodness and mercy of their God, and they turned their back on His word. So when the Israelite farmer was enduring a drought he would think to himself, My family and I are starving here! Well the people who inhabited this land used to worship Baal, the rain God. So if I want it to rain here, I need to worship Baal as well. Now how did that nation worship their God. Oh yeah. They would sacrifice their children in times of greatest need. I will do likewise. I can worship Yahweh, and hedge my bets by sacrificing to Baal as well.

God is a merciful God, he warned them not to do this, not to adopt the abominable practices of the Canaanites, not to sacrifice their children, for it would be a curse to them. But they did not listen. So God who is still merciful chastised them and told them to repent. Again and again he sent his prophets to them to condemn them for their idolatry. But they hardened their hearts and would not believe.

Just before God judged them by destroying their nation through the Babylonians, God again sent a prophet named Ezekiel to condemn them. He reminded them that God had found them in their weakness in Egypt, struggling in their blood, and delivered them and married them to himself, and he provided for them giving them food and clothing and shelter, but that they had played the harlot and gone after false Gods, and in particular he says of them:

Ezekiel 16:20 "Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter,

21 "that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire?"

22 "And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood."

He reminds them that these are HIS children, they were HIS godly seed created in His image. These are not their children whom they are sacrificing, they are GOD's covenant children he reminds them. Created in His image and born to Covenant parents to be raised in the training and admonition of the Lord. And instead they are sacrificed to false gods by their selfish and unbelieving parents.

When we lapse into idolatry and lose our fear of God, child sacrifice is inevitable

Now that paganism and idolatry didn't just infect the people of Canaan it is common to all natural men

Infanticide was legal and encouraged in ancient Greece and Rome. ***"Know that I am still in Alexandria.... I ask and beg you to take good care of our baby son, and as soon as I received payment I shall send it up to you. If you are delivered (before I come home), if it is a boy keep it, if a girl, discard it."***

In Ashkelon in Israel archaeologists excavating the ruins of a bathhouse dating back to when the city was called Caesarea and occupied by the Romans discovered the skeletons of almost 100 babies in a sewer under the bathhouse. Examination of the skeletons revealed that all the infants had been killed shortly after their birth and then disposed of, most likely they were the children of the prostitutes who used the bathhouses.

From its earliest creeds, Christians "absolutely prohibited" infanticide as "murder." Stark, op. cit., page 124. To Christians, the infant had value. Whereas pagans placed no value on infant life, Christians treated them as human beings. They viewed infanticide as the murder of a human being, not a convenient tool to rid society of excess females and perceived weaklings. The baby, whether male, female, perfect, or imperfect, was created in the image of God and therefore had value.

But so long as Christianity remained a disfavored--and sometimes persecuted--religion, their appeals to the pagan government to act against infanticide were ineffectual in changing government policy. Even so, Christians worked against infanticide by prohibiting its members from practicing it, voicing their moral view on infanticide to the pagan world, and by providing for the relief of the poor and actually taking in and supporting babies which had been left to die by exposure by their pagan parents.

As the Christian faith spread, opposition to barbaric practice of exposing infants spread, other practices such as gladiatorial games were also opposed, the value of the human as created in the image of God was exalted.

That remained the case for centuries, but now as we are lapsing into idolatry once again and as a result, infanticide and euthanasia are on the rise. The value of human life is sinking low.

The thing therefore that will stop this awful trend, is reformation and revival.

Can God not do mighty things? There was time when the remnant of faithful believers resisting idolatry consisted of a few young men in Babylon, and by his grace he carried them through the fire furnace, and caused their faith to prevail over the will of the mightiest of earthly kings

There was a time brothers and sisters, when the entire Christian faith consisted of a few frightened men in an upper room, a time when the entire world had been submerged in the darkness of popery and sacerdotalism, a time when the British empire approved of and even depended upon the triangle trade!

He can and does raise men up, and I know this, one way or another God will end this. I hope that unlike the Judah it will end because God mercifully causes the American people to choose the blessings of the gospel, rather than the curses of continuing on.

1) There are Christians in this church who have been guilty of this and every other sin, but often it is those who have been converted after committing this sin who have been the most potent advocates against it. John Newton who spoke against the evils of the slave trade and influenced William Wilberforce was himself an ex-slave trader and man stealer.

So pray, pray he would raise up another Daniel, a Wilberforce for our time - Wilberforce, Newton, Slave Trade

2) Evangelize, I am convinced that this is a course we will not turn from willingly until and unless God grants that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would come sweeping our land. It was that that turned me.

3) Avoid Compromise and Muddled Language

4) Do not forget, do not become complacent, do not become desensitized.

Prov. 31:8 Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die.

John Calvin wrote his great Institutes of Christian Religion because saw himself standing as it were between two rivers of blood, those in France who had died for the Reformed faith, and those who were appointed to die, so he wrote his great work as a defense of the faith of those who could not plead for themselves.

"If I do not oppose it righteously and to the best of my ability,' said Calvin, 'I shall fairly be called cowardly and disloyal on account of my silence.' He will speak, he will rush between the executioners and their victims. A heavenly word rang through his soul: Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. (Proverbs 31:8) He therefore formed one of those resolutions which, in a character such as his, are unalterable. 'I will obey Him who speaks to me from on high" - Calvin

We must do the same for the unborn, the aged, those with birth defects, the weakest and most vulnerable members of society.

Remember, that as you stand against abortion, you are not only standing for unborn, you are standing for the good of this nation. Remember the innocent blood that is crying out to God and that he is just and good.