

Intro

Thoughts on Molech

~ McGhee - The worship of Molech was savage, satanic, cruel, and brutal. Children were offered as sacrifices to the idol of Molech which was heated red hot. According to historians, the arms of the idol were outstretched and the child was cast "into a gaping hole, full of fire."

~ Holman OT on Molech

- Molek means the chief deity of the Ammonites
- Molech was associated with Baal worship (Jer 32:35)
- Molech was possibly associated with sexual impurity as it's mentioned in a context of sexual impurity in Leviticus. The Kiel thinks the practice involved spiritual whoredom
- Solomon built an altar Chemosh which is likened to Molech (1 Kings 11:7)
- Guzik - Molech was worshipped by heating a metal statue representing the god until it was red hot, then by placing a living infant on the outstretched hands of the statue, while beating drums drowned out the screams of the child until it burned to death.
- TSK - His statue was of brass, and rested on a pedestal or throne of the same metal. His head, resembling that of a calf, was adorned with a crown, and his arms were extended in the attitude of embracing those who approached him. When they offered any children to him, they heated the statue by a great fire kindled within, and the victim was put into his arms, and thus consumed.
- Some are of the opinion that the child was placed into the arms of the statue god so as to present the child as a sacrifice to Molech. Others are of the opinion the children were thrown into a heated fire to die
- King Ahaz burned his son in this fire (2 Kings 21:6)
- *Jer 7:30,31 For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it. 31 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.*

Several things about this passage

- 1 Israel and the foreigner who resided with Israel were forbidden to offer their children to Molech
- 2 There was a consequence for doing so...it was stoning
- 3 God would set his face against that man
- 4 Offering children to Molech makes God's sanctuary unclean
- 5 Offering children to Molech profanes God's holy name
- 6 If people knowingly turn a blind eye to the practice of offering children to Molech God will set his face against them

There's similarities we see with this passage and abortion

- 1 God's word prohibits the taking of life
- 2 While we don't practice stoning God will set his face against those who permit, promote and perform abortion
- 3 Abortion makes the land an unclean place because it's murder
- 4 Abortion profanes the name of God
- 5 If our country knowingly ignores this issue God will set his face against our country or any other country

Text

There's several reasons why abortion profanes God's holy name

1 Abortion makes the land unclean

- In stories that take place in a tourist town when there's a murder the town officials are concerned it will affect tourism. Their afraid it will tarnish the land
- So, when people go contrary to God's laws it makes the land to stink
- If you've ever been near/ driven past a dump there's a stench. Abortion makes the land to stink spiritually

2 Abortion is the taking of an innocent life

- When God gave Moses the 10 commandments in Ex 20:13 that law says, "you shall not kill"

3 Abortion disregards that man was made in the image of God

- Though the fall of man affected entire being man was still made in the image of God
- Man is supposed to be image bearers
- When man walks in obedience to the word he increasingly becomes image bearers of God's holiness

4 Abortion affects the people involved

- The father of the child is affected
- Obviously the child is no longer with us
- The mother is affected with guilt
- Every decision we make always affects others for either the good or the bad

5 Abortion like many other things in life affects a person's self-image

- The devil wants to mar God's creation
- Ever since pride was found in the heart of Lucifer and God removed him from his position in heaven he's been trying to mar, ruin God's creation and separate God's creation from God
- God created man in his image (Gen 1:26). Man was the crowning achievement of creation. Man has personality like God and was over creation but the thing that makes man different from the rest of creation is that God gave man the ability to relate to him and fellowship with God. This is what the devil wanted to mar and destroy...man's relationship with and ability to relate to God. The more the devil destroys man's capacity to relate to God he mars the person and makes it harder for that person to relate back to God
- He wants to mar, ruin and separate God's creation from him so much that creation doesn't cry out to God
- What are other things that affect a person's self-image and what is their remedy
 - Sin – Repentance and rebound (David sinned and tried to cover it up in 2 Samuel). We can read of David in the Psalms where he didn't confess his sins he was miserable and his bones ached and was discouraged
 - Bad decisions – Good decision (David made a bad decision with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel). We can learn from Israel's many bad decisions. They worshipped the golden calf, refused to ask the Lord for their needs instead they complained, they refused to trust God's guidance
 - Guilt – Forgiveness for self and from God (
 - Loneliness – Companionship from God and Friends (Paul was alone yet the Lord stood with him – 2 Tim 4:16,17)
 - Sense of failure – Give yourself some grace and learn from the past
 - Discouragement – Get our rest, not comparing ourselves, and do the next thing. Focus on what God wants US to do. (Elijah in 1 Kings)
 - When God made man in his image man was complete and whole. He was in a perfect relationship with God. Man was at his peak
 - When man was made in the image of God man had something the rest of creation doesn't have...the ability to relate and have relationship with God
 - The devil and the world attack the self-image of a person because it's an attack on the person made in the image of God. When we're discouraged it's an attack on the image of God

Conclusion

~ Our broken selves is the fruit of man being in a fallen condition alienated from God

~ For this reason God sent his son into this world – the just for the unjust to bring us to God (1 Pet 3:18)

~ By Christ's death we've been reconciled to God (Rom 5:10)

~ For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (1 Jn 3:8)

~ We we're unjust, needing reconciliation and bore in our life the fruit of the devil's labor against us because we're all sinners and it's our own sin that necessitated a redeemer

~ Lev 20:7,8 God is holy and expects man to be holy. The only way that is possible is through a redeemer - JC