



GLC Weekly

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What Happened to Nations Who Sacrificed Children?

Biblical Truth About Abortion, Part 6

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What happened to nations who sacrificed children? In the Bible, there is an accurate history of nations who sacrificed their children, and an accurate recording of how the LORD GOD saw and responded to their idolatry, immorality and child sacrifice.



Around 1925 B.C., the LORD GOD made a covenant with Abram, promising to give him a son, great rewards, and certain lands to his descendants (Genesis 15). That was the land of Canaan, where the Kenite, Kenizzite, Kadmonite, Hittite, Perizzite, Rephaim, Amorite, Canaanite, Girgashite, and Jebusites lived. But the LORD told Abram his descendants would not possess it for several centuries, for his descendants “will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years,” and afterwards “shall return here” and possess the land. Why the long delay? Because “the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

What was that iniquity? Culture-wide, deeply imbedded idolatry, immorality, and child sacrifice. So far as I’ve been able to discover, the land of Canaan was the world capital of child sacrifice during Abraham’s lifetime. This continued until Israel came out of Egypt and became GOD’s instrument of judgment to destroy those peoples and stop their evil practices.

In Leviticus 18, the LORD commanded Israel: “I am the LORD your God. You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes” (18:2-3). Then the LORD lists many immoral acts that were authorized by “their statutes” and customs, but which were abominations to Him, so He commanded His people not to do them. He also commanded: “You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD” (18:21). The LORD continued: “Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled. For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants” (18:24-25). The LORD judged and destroyed or removed the people from the lands they had defiled.

For 500 to 700 years after Israel conquered and possessed the land GOD promised to them, there is no record of anyone in Israel or Judah sacrificing children. But they too eventually forsook the LORD and forgot His command to “not defile yourselves by any of these things.” Sacrificing children in Israel may have begun in the latter part of Solomon’s reign, when “his foreign wives . . . turned” his heart “away from the LORD,” and he “built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Amon” (1 Kings 11:6-8). Children were sacrificed to Chemosh and Molech.

The first record of a king sacrificing his own son to an idol was Ahaz, King of Judah, who “even made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out from before the sons of Israel” (2 Kings 16:3). His son, King Hezekiah, did much to turn Judah back to the LORD.

But after his son, Manasseh, grandson of Ahaz, became king of Judah, “he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. He built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, ‘In Jerusalem I will put My name.’ For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. He made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists [2Ki 24:1-4 NASB95] 1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant [for] three years; then he turned and rebelled against him. 2 The LORD sent against him bands of Chaldeans, bands of Arameans, bands of Moabites, and bands of Ammonites. So He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken through His servants the prophets. 3 Surely at the command of the LORD it came upon Judah, to remove [them] from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, 4 and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and the LORD would not forgive.. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking Him to anger” (2 Kings 21:2-6). “Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD” (2 Kings 21:16).

Therefore, some years later, “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up . . . The LORD sent against [Judah and its king] bands of Chaldeans, bands of Arameans, bands of Moabites, and bands of Ammonites. So He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken through His servants the prophets. Surely at the command of the LORD it came upon Judah, to remove [them] from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and the LORD would not forgive” (2 Kings 24:1-4).

Just as the LORD had done with the evil nations whose land He gave to His people, so He did with Israel and Judah after they were practicing idolatry, immorality and child sacrifice. The LORD removed them from the land He gave them, except for a remnant, for 2,500 years.

The United States is guilty of the same sins of these nations, and the LORD is calling us to return to Him, to turn from our sin, to repent for the innocent bloodshed of more than 67 million babies, and to end abortion in our land. The LORD is calling His people in other nations to do the same, and to cleanse themselves and their land by the blood of Jesus.

PRAY that GOD's people in American and other nations would do so.

For the LORD, the sacred gift of life, the sacred gift of liberty, and remembrance of the babies,

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The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit, to be a catalyst movement to establish principles and practices in nations that align with the Word of God and respect human life.