

ABORTION IS CHILD SACRIFICE



22 week aborted fetus

Ezekiel 16:21, "... [Y]ou took your sons and daughters ... and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured ... causing them to pass through the fire." Jeremiah 32:35, "... I have never commanded such a horrible deed; it never even crossed my mind ..."



9 and 10 Week Aborted Fetuses

"They even sacrificed their sons and daughters to the demons [Psalm 106:37] ... to be devoured [Ezekiel 16:20]."

By Gregg Cunningham

Abortion is child sacrifice and it represents depravity so unimaginable that it cannot be fathomed unless seen. Invisible atrocities can never be overcome until they are made visible -- and making them visible invites persecution.

Psalms 106 warns of God's rage against child sacrifice:

37 They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; 38 they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood. 39 Thus they became unclean by their acts, and played the whore in their deeds. 40 Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he abhorred his heritage; 41 he gave them into the hand of the nations, so that those who hated them ruled over them. 42 Their enemies oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their power.

JAMA Pediatrics, May 23, 2016, reported that "67% of preemies born at 22-23 weeks of gestation [the age of the aborted baby in the photo above] and given active medical care survived until hospital discharge" (WORLD Magazine, June 25, 2016). Babies are, in fact, currently being aborted at ages older than many of the preemies treated in neonatal intensive care units of our hospitals.

Pastors frequently reject the notion that abortion is child sacrifice because they believe the focus of idolatrous worship must be a physical object. *The [six volume] Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*, (2009), indeed confirms that in ancient times, "Idols were made of wood, stone, or clay, and sometimes of gold or silver." The text adds, however, that "In the NT [New Testament] the term was extended to mean obsession with anything ... that took the place of God." In contemporary culture, self-interest has become an obsessive preoccupation.

2 Timothy 3:1-2 foretells that "In the last days terrible times will come." This passage explains that "... people will be lovers of self." *The Daily Wire*, May 17, 2017, ran a story on self-love headlined, "The Saddest Trend You Have Ever Heard Of," which describes a new form of matrimony. It is called "sologamy, and it involves people (usually women) exchanging marital vows with themselves. They so love themselves that they are marrying themselves. How is this not a sacramental act of self-worship? How is this not idolatry; demonic; satanic? This worship of false gods, (the god of self), is idolatry of the very sort which manifests itself in the sacrifice of one's child.

BiblicalArchaeology.com posts an essay titled, "... The Worship of Self and the Slaughter of Children." It contends that "public murder at a religious altar" may seem "worlds apart" from "the sanitized and hidden slaughter in an abortion clinic," but it "is not." The article adds that "Ancient ritual sacrifice of babies to a demonic idol at pagan temples has been replaced by ... medical 'murder' of children at the altar of self, at secular, state-sanctioned 'clinics'"

More problematic than the almost certainly low percentage of Americans who believe abortion is indistinguishable (in any spiritually significant way) from satanic, Old Testament child sacrifice, is the low percentage of Americans who even believe Satan is real. Researcher George Barna reported in 2017 that only 58% of born-again Christians believe that Satan exists. A 2001 article at Baptist2Baptist.net ("Baptists Adrift in Doctrinal Confusion") cites Barna for the proposition that only 17% of Catholics then believed Satan to be a real being. In Australia it is only 37%. In the UK, only 18% believe the devil is real.

LifeSiteNews.com published a June 2, 2017 article headlined Catholic "Jesuit chief claims Satan is only a 'symbol' created by man." It quotes "Fr. Arturo Sosa Abascal, the Jesuit's Superior General,"

as declaring “that Satan is a ‘symbolic figure’ who doesn’t really exist.” He adds that “We have created symbolic figures, such as the devil, in order to express [the reality of evil” Score a big win for Satan.

Ephesians 6:11 nonetheless exhorts us to “stand against the schemes of the devil.” His most effective scheme is to trivialize the threat he poses to mankind by masking his very existence. And this deception he wields with subtle power. Genesis 3:1 says he is “was more crafty than any other beast.” Revelation 20:10 describes “the devil who had deceived them” Revelations 12:9, characterizes him as “the deceiver of the whole world.” Seeing through this deception is vital because 1 Peter 5:8 warns, “Your adversary the devil prowls about as a roaring lion seeking whom to devour” He devours newborn and unborn children most of all.

Simon Sebag Montefiore, international best-selling author and writer of the history text *Jerusalem* (Vintage Books, 2011), page 44 says:

Most dreadful of all ... [Manasseh] encouraged the sacrifice of children at the roaster – the Tophet – in the Valley of Hinnom, south of the city [of Jerusalem]. Indeed ‘he made his own pass through the fire’ **Children were said to be taken there as priests beat drums to hide the shrieks of the victims from their parents.**

Satan has always been a baby-killer, especially when Christ is the baby sought to be killed, as prophesied in Revelation 12:1-6:

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴ His tail swept down [!]a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. **And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.** ⁵ **She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron,** but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

Satan Attempts to Kill the Baby Moses

Satan has been a baby-killer from the dawn of time. He tried to kill the baby Moses through Pharaoh’s attempt to annihilate every male Israelite child in Exodus 1:15-22 (see also Exodus 2:1-9). The baby Jesus survived a similar bloodbath as Satan tried to kill Him through Herod’s command that every male child under the age of two be butchered to death (Matthew 2:16).

Satan would kill God if he could. Since he can’t, he grieves the heart of God by inspiring the sacrifice of children created in God’s image. God signaled the fervor of His regard for life in the womb when He chose to become man at the moment of Christ’s conception, not the moment of His birth.

We are to Stand at the Gates of the Temple and Warn God’s People About Child Sacrifice (Jeremiah 7):

¹ This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² ‘Stand at the gate of the LORD’s house and there proclaim this message: “Hear the word of the LORD”’

* * *

⁶ '[D]o not shed innocent blood'

* * *

⁹ 'Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"—safe to do all these detestable things?'

* * *

¹³ 'While you were doing all these things,' declares the LORD, 'I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.'

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¹⁶ 'So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you. ¹⁶ Do you not see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?'

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³⁰ 'The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes,' declares the LORD. 'They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it. ³¹ They have built the high places of Tophet in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire'

Pagans Still Unrepentant About Child Sacrifice

Contemporary pagans unashamedly proclaim abortion to be child sacrifice in the full spiritual sense. New Age pagan author Brenda Peterson was publicly declaring abortion to be the sacrifice of a living human baby to a pagan deity as early as 1993, in a cover story in the September/October issue of *New Age Journal*. Referring to "**pagan, Earth-centered goddess religions ...**" she describes a "**matriarchal time**" during which "**... the power to give and deny birth belonged to the goddess and to women.**"

Amazon sells a pagan book titled *The Sacrament of Abortion*, by Ginette Paris (Spring Publications, 1992). On page 1 the author says, "I have drawn inspiration throughout this book from a guiding image, the Artemis of Greek mythology (known to the Romans as Diana, the Huntress)." At page 56 she says, "**It is not immoral to choose abortion; it is simply another kind of morality, a pagan one.** It is time to stop being defensive about it, time to point an accusatory finger at the other camp and denounce its own immoral stance." At page 107 she says, "**Abortion is a sacrifice to Artemis. Abortion as a sacrament** for the gift of life to remain pure." At page 92 she says, "Our culture needs new rituals as well as laws to **restore abortion to its sacred dimension, which is both terrible and necessary.**"

In **1 Corinthians 10:19-20**, Paul asks: "Do I mean then ... that an idol is anything? No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons." **Acts 19:23-28** describes Paul's near-death experience at the hands of artisans and merchants who were making and selling pagan worship paraphernalia but losing money because Paul was converting **Artemis** worshippers to Christianity.

The Amazon publisher's book description says: "Since its original publication, *The Sacrament of Abortion* has been widely used in abortion clinics in Canada and in France and has even been given by some doctors to each and every woman who had the procedure" Dr. Paris is a devout pagan

who has also written *Pagan Meditations* and *Pagan Grace*, both also published by Spring Publications (1998). Pagans hand out these books the way Gideons distribute Bibles.

Christian Leaders Say Abortion is Child Sacrifice

Pope Francis, quoted by The Catholic News Agency, January 11, 2017, in an article headlined “Having an abortion to keep your figure is a big problem,” addressed abortion and “the dangers of worshipping idols.” Recalling a conversation with a post-abortive woman, the Pontiff lamented her declaration that “I had to have an abortion because my figure is so important.” Attitudes like this, he said “are the idols, and they take you on the wrong path ...”

Pastor John Piper, in a sermon delivered on Psalm 106:32-48, acknowledged the pagan perspective on abortion:

Abortion is the sacrificing of our sons and daughters to demons. And someday we will see this. And we will be as amazed that it could have endured so long as we are that the enslavement of Africans lasted as long as it did. The issue is just as clear as that one was. And we are just as blind today as they were then. The big difference is that the babies can't run away. The underground railroad is entirely dependent on you, not them.

* * *

Sacrifice means that you give up something ordinarily considered valuable (a sheep or a bull) to gain something better—usually from a deity. Abortion in America is not done consciously with any desire to get blessing from a deity. But it is done to gain something ‘better’ than the baby — that is what the whole debate is about. Is the gain greater than the loss? We need to be sure to see it in those terms: The life of a child is being sacrificed for something. What that ‘something’ is defines the barbarity of our culture.

Pastor Tim Keller agrees. In an article titled “How We Find Our Rival Gods,” *New York Times* bestselling author Tim Keller told *Christianity Today*, October 20, 2009, that the “idolatry is always the reason we ever do anything wrong.” “Anything,” by definition, would include abortion because abortion is as “wrong” as sins get. Pastor Keller adds that an idol “is that there is something you feel you *must* have to be happy, that is more important to your heart than God himself. We would not lie unless first we had made something—human approval, reputation, power over others, financial advantage—more important and valuable to our hearts than the grace and favor of God.” The abortion industry sells abortion on the explicit notion that it is vital for a woman’s “financial advantage.”

Eric Metaxas, of The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview, wrote at ChristianPost.com, September 20, 2015, “The Canaanites, Child Sacrifice and Abortion”:

To see just how far pagans would go to manipulate a deity, look at the Phoenicians, who were basically Canaanites with boats. Archaeological excavations of at least nine Phoenician settlements have found evidence of *Tophets*, the Biblical term for places where child sacrifice, usually by burning, was practiced.

As the Bible tells us, the practice spread to ancient Judah. We're told that Josiah

destroyed the *Tophets* in Judah along with other sites of pagan worship.

This kind of barbarism is unimaginable today. Or is it?

As Mother Theresa famously said, 'It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.'

What is the so-called 'right to choose' if not the sacrifice of children to the gods of personal autonomy and self-fulfillment?

Randy Alcorn, *New York Times* best-selling author, former pastor and seminary professor, wrote at EPM.org:

Child sacrifice is condemned throughout Scripture. Only the most degraded societies tolerated such evil, and the worst of these defended and celebrated it as if it were a virtue. Ancient dumping grounds have been found filled with the bones of hundreds of dismembered infants. This is strikingly similar to discoveries of thousands of dead babies discarded by modern abortion clinics. **One scholar of the ancient Near East refers to infant sacrifice as 'the Canaanite counterpart to abortion.'** **Unlike the pagan sacrifices, however, with abortion, child killing need no longer be postponed till birth.**

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As the devil loved the sacrifice of children in the ancient heathen cultures, so he loves the sacrifice of children in our modern culture. **Whether children are sacrificed to a heathen god called Molech or to the god of our own convenience, he does not care. ...[T]here are demonic forces behind child killing. Abortion is Satan's attempt to kill God in effigy by destroying the little ones created in God's image.** We are not dealing here with 'one more social issue,' but a unique and focused evil in which Satan has deep vested interests ...

The enemy of our souls has been called many names over the course of human history but he claims the same victory every time a child is sacrificed, whether he hides behind the altar of **Artemis** or **Baal** or the altar of "choice." A sacrificed child may indeed spend eternity in glory but God's will for that child's life has been thwarted. We help Satan masquerade as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) when we help him hide the horror of child sacrifice. Discouraging the public display of disturbing abortion photos reinforces the lie that abortion is a nominal evil, best left to personal discretion — not to the Christian activism required to force government intervention in defense of preborn life.

For these and other reasons, it is as important to identify abortion as "child sacrifice" in the church as it is to identify abortion as "genocide" in the secular culture. Child sacrifice is not just another sin. It is an especially egregious form of sin which demands an especially forceful response from people of faith. Genocide is not just another form of homicide. It is an especially inhumane form of homicide which demands an especially robust response from people of conscience.

The terms "child sacrifice" and "genocide" are rightly stigmatizing words which more accurately describe the magnitude of the evil each represents. Calling your enemy by its proper name is vital to accurately understanding and effectively responding to the threat posed by that adversary. Pastors and politicians often resist the use of these terms because their adoption imposes obligations they wish to avoid.

Dr. Richard Land, president of the Southern Evangelical Seminary, Charlotte, NC, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said in an interview with Baptist Press, bpnews.net, July 16, 2002, headlined "Land: Partial-Birth Abortion Another Form of Child Sacrifice," that **partial-birth abortion is literally an "act of child sacrifice to the pagan gods of convenience, social convention and career well-being."**

Catholic Bishop Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury, UK, was quoted in an article in the *Catholic Herald*, May 14, 2015, headlined "Western world shows same disregard for human life as the Aztecs":

Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury has said the disregard for human life in the western world today bears a resemblance to the Aztec practice of human sacrifice.

Both societies held a belief that some human lives can be discarded, the bishop said, adding: 'We cannot regard any human life as inferior to our own whether we meet them in the helpless refugee, the unborn child or the abandoned elderly person.'

R.C. Sproul, Jr. answered a question at rcsprouljr.com: "Ask RC: Why won't my pastor preach against abortion?" Pastor Sproul replied, "How can one cover the worship of Molech, without preaching on how we sacrifice our children to the bloodthirsty gods of convenience and reputation?"

Rabbi Compares Abortion to the Holocaust

Jewish Rabbi Jacob Neusner believes that abortion is morally comparable to the Holocaust. From a spiritual perspective, abortion, as noted above, is child sacrifice. From a secular point of view, however, it is not merely homicide, but Rabbi Neusner contends it is an extension of the Shoah — genocide. A professor of religion at the University of South Florida, Tampa, and Bard College, New York, Rabbi Neusner published an article to that effect in the October 26, 1998 issue of *Christianity Today*, "Why Abortion is Genocide":

[H]ow is mass abortion in the State of Israel, such as is practiced by the secular (but not the religious) portion of the Israeli population, not comparable to mass murder of Jewish children in German Europe?

* * *

As the numbers mount up, when do considerations of volume enter in and validate calling the annihilation of millions of lives a Holocaust? I think they do. Here is a Holocaust today. Every Jewish child born in the State of Israel is a survivor of the Holocaust sustained by Israeli law.

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The difference is, Germany has acknowledged its shame. But for the annual annihilation of tens of thousands of Jewish children, the State of Israel acknowledges nothing.

The National Socialists killed over one million Jewish children during the Holocaust (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, ushmm.org), so it is ironic that Israel "permits abortions at any stage of pregnancy" (Tabletmag.com, "On Israel's Liberal Abortion Policies," June 16, 2015). That puts Israel's abortion rate (25%) on a par with China's (26%). It means that two million Jewish children have been aborted since Israel's founding in 1948. That is twice as many as were killed by Hitler (Aleteia.org, "Are American Tax Payers Underwriting Israeli Abortions?" January 15, 2014).

What meaningful moral distinction can be drawn between today's Israeli doctors killing a Jewish baby a few days before full term, and death camp doctors killing a Jewish baby a few days after delivery — or pagan priests “passing him/her through the fires of Molech”? And these atrocities go far beyond Israel.

The World Health Organization estimates that 56 million abortions are committed every year worldwide. We have reason to believe that estimate is low. But even that figure would mean that every 12 months, the number of babies butchered globally is nearly equal to the size of the population of the United Kingdom (65M); is larger than the population of South Korea (50M); and is greater than the population sizes of Canada (36M), or Spain (46M), or Poland (38M).

We Will be Judged if We Don't Intervene

Leviticus 20:4-5, “And if the people of the land do at all **close their eyes** to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech ... then **I will set my face against** that man and against his clan **and will cut them off** from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech.” (*The Bethany Parallel Commentary on The Old Testament*, Matthew Henry comment, reads “... all his aiders and abettors should be cut off likewise by the righteous hand of God” — for the offense of ignoring or tolerating the practice of child sacrifice.)

Various translations describe this avoidance as to “ignore,” to “disregard,” to “hide their eyes,” to “look the other way,” to “avoid dealing with,” to “shut their eyes,” to “overlook,” and “neglecting” an important responsibility.

John Wesley's Explanatory Notes describe this passage as “winking at his sin.” *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* defines “winking” as “pretending not to see.” “Winking” at something is commonly understood to trivialize an offense. The connotation suggests that the offense is unimportant; it doesn't really matter.

Are Christians, redeemed by Christ's New Covenant, bound by anything in the book of Leviticus? Does the New Covenant free us from the Old Testament's prohibition against sacrificing our children to be devoured by demons (a practice condemned in book after book of the Bible)? If not, how then does our redemption license us to look the other way when child sacrifice flourishes around us? No other sin in scripture provokes such incendiary wrath in the heart of God. Did God change His mind about child sacrifice with the finished work of Christ?

Isaiah 59:15-16 “The LORD watches and is displeased, for there is no justice ... He sees there is no advocate; **He is shocked that no one intervenes.**” Some translations say He is “appalled” that no one intervenes. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* defines that which is “appalling” as “horrifying.” **Jeremiah 32:35** quotes God as also finding child sacrifice “horrifying.”

Could it be that as a consequence of our passage from the Old Covenant into the Church Age, God is no longer horrified when His people, individually and collectively, shrug off any responsibility for protecting children who are being tortured to death? Who would advance such a bizarre contention?

Proverbs 24:11-12 warns that we are to “Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.” The passage adds that “If you say, ‘Behold, we did not know this,’ does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?”

James 4:17 "... [I]f anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." Does this injunction apply to every "good" except rescuing babies from child sacrifice?

Revelation 3:13-22 Jesus cautions, "I know your deeds So because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." "Lukewarm" almost perfectly describes the tepid opposition most churches register against abortion.

Matthew 24:12 Jesus told us that we could expect the end times when "the love of most grows cold." Has the heart of the church grown cold toward potential victims of child sacrifice?

Feeling Pity Versus Showing Pity

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37, this teaching begins with a law professor asking Jesus what a person must do to be saved — the quintessential evangelical question (v. 25). Included in Christ's answer is the commandment to "love your neighbor" (v.27). Is a preborn child our "neighbor"? If so, we are obligated to intervene when such a child is in peril of violent death, and "take pity on him" (v.33). We are to accept the full risk (v.34) and bear the high cost of intervention (v.35).

In **Matthew 25:35-36**, Christ warns that on the Day of Judgment, He will judge the works we have performed (or did not perform) in mitigation of injustice and human suffering. Those works will offer evidence that our faith is a living, saving faith (James 2:26).

- * Jesus won't ask whether we **felt** pity for the needy. He will ask whether we **took** pity on the needy.
- * He won't ask whether we were pro-nutrition. He will ask what we did to feed the hungry.
- * He won't ask whether we were pro-hydration. He will ask what we did to give drink to the thirsty.
- * He won't ask whether we were pro-life. He will ask what we did to save the babies.

Correct attitudes and feelings will mean little to Christ or to the "least of these" without corresponding works of mercy (James 2:16).

ARE YOU AND YOUR CHURCH "CLOSING YOUR EYES" TO CHILD SACRIFICE?



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