

False gods of the Bible: Molech
Jeremiah 19:1-6
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from those who worshipped the false god known as Molech.

Introduction

I. The Name, Origin & Worship of Molech.

A. The Name

1. The name of a god whose worship is found mostly in the later history of the kingdom of Judah. As the national god of the Ammonites, he is known as "Milcom" (1Ki 11:5,7), or "Malcam"
 - i. (*"Malcan" is an alternative name used in 2Sa 12:30,31*)
2. Molech is obtained from melekh by the substitution of the vowel points of Hebrew bosheth, signifying "shame."

B. The Origin

1. You can see similarities between the origin Moloch and Baal.
The name, the worship, and the general characteristics are so similar that it is natural to place their origin in Phoenicia. The fact that Moloch-worship reached the peak of its cruelty in the Phoenician colonies whose center was Carthage.

C. Worship of Molech

1. Molech-worship had evidently received a great push from Ahaz, who, like Ahab of Israel, was a supporter of foreign religions (2Ki 16:12). He also "made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations, whom Yahweh cast out from before the children of Israel" (2Ki 16:3).
 - i. His grandson Manasseh, raised altars for Baal, and besides other abominations which he practiced, made his son to pass through the fire (2Ki 21:6).
 - ii. The chief site of this worship, of which Ahaz and Manasseh were the promoters, was Topheth in the Valley of Hinnom, or, as it is also called, the Valley of the Children, or of the Son of Hinnom, lying to the Southwest of Jerusalem.
 - iii. Of Josiah's reformation it is said that "he defiled Topheth.... that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech" (2Ki 23:10).
2. The image of Moloch was a human figure with a bull's head and outstretched arms, ready to receive the children destined for sacrifice. The image of metal was heated red hot by a fire kindled within, and the children laid on its arms rolled off into the fiery pit below.
 - i. In order to drown the cries of the victims, flutes were played, and drums were beaten; and mothers stood by without tears or sobs, to give the impression of the voluntary character of the offering (see Rawlinson's Phoenicia, 113 f, for fuller details).

II. Molech in the Bible

A. Solomon & Molech

1. Solomon, under the influence of his idolatrous wives, built high places for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom, the abomination of the children of Ammon.
2. Solomon was lead away by the influence of others to do evil, his evil not only affected himself, but the innocent as well.

B. Condemnation of Molech

1. Jeremiah 19:1-6 – such wickedness never entered into the mind of God.
2. God would never desire sacrifice that involved loss of human life, only the wickedness from the man can desire such.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Molech VS Yahweh – Yahweh wins

1. Molech – Molech destroyed mankind, taking the innocent from families and giving nothing in return is only one example.
2. Yahweh - "...to obey is better than sacrifice-in other words that the God worshipped in Abraham's time was a God who did not delight in destroying life, but in saving and sanctifying it" (Robertson, Early Religion of Israel, 254).

B. False gods destroy

1. Molech, like other false gods demands things from man that brings him harm.
2. Molech gives nothing to man; no blessings, no salvation, no love, no care, and no hope.

Application & Conclusion:

1. In the worship of false gods blood flowed from man to the false god. In the worship of the one true God blood flowed from God to man.
2. The one true God desires to save mankind, not destroy him.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9