

~TOPHETH (180) **(To'pheth)**

- **A place outside Jerusalem where, for a considerable period, apostate Israelites, including Ahaz and Manasseh, engaged in child sacrifice. Finally, King Josiah made it unfit for worship.**
- **And he made unfit for worship **Topheth**, which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (2 Kings 23:10)**
- **And he himself made sacrificial smoke in the valley of the son of Hinnom and proceeded to burn up his sons in the fire, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (2 Chronicles 28:3)**
- **And he himself made his own sons pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and practiced magic and used divination and practiced sorcery and made spiritistic mediums and professional foretellers of events. He did on a grand scale what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, to offend him. (2 Chronicles 33:6)**
- **And they have built the high places of **Topheth**, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, in order to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, **a thing that I had not commanded and that had not come up into my heart.** (Jeremiah 7:31)**
- **Therefore, look! Days are coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, when it will no more be said to be **Topheth** and the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of the killing, and they will have to bury in Topheth without there being enough place. (Jeremiah 7:32)**
- **And the dead bodies of this people must become food for the flying creatures of the heavens and for the beasts of the earth, with nobody to make them tremble. (Jeremiah 7:33)**
- **And you must say; Hear the word of Yehowah, O you kings of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. This is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Here I am bringing a calamity upon this place, of which when anyone hears, his ears**

will tingle. (**Jeremiah 19:3**)

- For the reason that they have left me and have proceeded to make this place unrecognizable and to make sacrificial smoke in it to other gods whom they had not known, they and their forefathers and the kings of Judah, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent ones. (**Jeremiah 19:4**)
- And they built the high places of the Baal in order to burn their sons in the fire as whole burnt offerings to the Baal, something that I had not commanded or spoken of, and that had not come up into my heart. (**Jeremiah 19:5**)
- Therefore, look! There are days coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, when this place will be called no more **Topheth** and the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of the killing. (**Jeremiah 19:6**)
- And I will make void the counsel of Judah and of Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hand of those seeking for their soul. And I will give their dead bodies as food to the flying creatures of the heavens and to the beasts of the earth. (**Jeremiah 19:7**)
- And I will make this city an object of astonishment and something to be whistled at. Every last one passing along by it will stare in astonishment and whistle over all its plagues. (**Jeremiah 19:8**)
- And I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they will eat each one the flesh of his fellowman, because of the tightness and because of the stress with which their enemies and those seeking for their soul will hem them in. (**Jeremiah 19:9**)
- And you must break the flask before the eyes of the men who are going with you. (**Jeremiah 19:10**)
- And you must say to them; This is what Yehowah of armies has said; In the same way I shall break this people and this city as someone breaks the vessel of the potter so that it is no more able to be repaired, and in **Topheth** they will bury until there is no more place to bury. (**Jeremiah 19:11**)

- That is how I shall do to this place, is the utterance of Yehowah, and to the inhabitants of it, even to make this city like **Topheth**. (**Jeremiah 19:12**)
- And the houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah must become like the place of **Topheth**, unclean ones, that is, all the houses upon the roofs of which they made sacrificial smoke to all the army of the heavens and there was a pouring out of drink offerings to other gods. (**Jeremiah 19:13**)
- And Jeremiah proceeded to come from **Topheth**, to which Yehowah had sent him to prophesy, and to stand in the courtyard of the house of Yehowah and say to all the people. (**Jeremiah 19:14**)
- Furthermore, they built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, in order to make their sons and their daughters pass through the fire to Molech, a thing that I did not command them, neither did it come up into my heart to do this detestable thing, for the purpose of making Judah sin. (**Jeremiah 32:35**)
- **Topheth** probably occupied a section of the eastern part of the Valley of Hinnom near the Gate of the Potsherds.
- And you must go out to the valley of the son of Hinnom, which is at the entrance of the Gate of the Potsherds. And there you must proclaim the words that I shall speak to you. (**Jeremiah 19:2**)
- Therefore, look! There are days coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, when this place will be called no more **Topheth** and the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of the killing. (**Jeremiah 19:6**)
- And Jeremiah proceeded to come from **Topheth**, to which Yehowah had sent him to prophesy, and to stand in the courtyard of the house of Yehowah and say to all the people. (**Jeremiah 19:14**)

See Also HINNOM, VALLEY OF

- **Commenting on;**
- And he made unfit for worship **Topheth**, which is in the valley of

the sons of Hinnom, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (2 Kings 23:10)

- The Jewish commentator David Kimhi, circa 1160 B.C.E. -1235 B.C.E, offers this possible explanation concerning Topheth: The name of the place where they caused their sons to pass through the fire to Molech.
- The name of the place was Topheth, and they said it was called thus because at the time of worship they would dance and strike tambourines, Hebrew, *tup-pim'* so that the father would not hear his sons cries when they were causing him to pass through the fire, and that his heart might not become agitated over him and he take him from their hand.
- And this place was a valley that belonged to a man named Hinnom, and it was called Valley of Hinnom and Valley of the Son of Hinnom. And Josiah defiled that place, reducing it to an unclean place, to cast there carcasses and all uncleanness, that it might never again come up into the heart of a man to cause his son and his daughter to pass through in the fire to Molech. [Biblia Rabbinica, Jerusalem, 1972]
- And every swing of his rod of chastisement that Yehowah will cause to settle down upon Assyria will certainly prove to be with tambourines and with harps, and with battles of brandishing he will actually fight against them. (Isaiah 30:32)
- For his Topheth is set in order from recent times, it is also prepared for the king himself. He has made its pile deep. Fire and wood are in abundance. The breath of Yehowah, like a torrent of sulphur, is burning against it. (Isaiah 30:33)
- It is stated that the punishment that Yehowah will bring against Assyria will certainly prove to be with tambourines, Hebrew, *bethup-pim'* and with harps. For his Topheth is set in order from recent times. Fire and wood are in abundance.
- The breath of Yehowah, like a torrent of sulphur, is burning against it. Here Topheth is used figuratively as a place of burning with fire, to represent the destruction that was to come upon Assyria.