

~MOLECH (375)

(Mo'lech) [from a root meaning, reign as king or king, but with the vowels of *bo'sheth*, shame, to denote abhorrence]

· Child Sacrifice To Molech

- A deity particularly associated with the Ammonites.
- And Solomon began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after **Milcom** the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. (**1 Kings 11:5**)
- It was then that Solomon proceeded to build a high place to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to **Molech** the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (**1 Kings 11:7**)
- The reason why is that they have left me and begun to bow down to Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh the god of Moab and to **Milcom** the god of the sons of Ammon, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and my statutes and my judicial decisions like David his father. (**1 Kings 11:33**)
- Possibly the same as **Moloch**.
- But it was the tent of **Moloch** and the star of the god Rephan that you took up, the figures which you made to worship them. Consequently I will deport you beyond Babylon. (**Acts of Apostles 7:43**)
- And you will certainly carry Sakkuth your king and Kaiwan, your images, the star of your god, whom you made for yourselves. (**Amos 5:26**)
- **Milcom**
- And Solomon began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after **Milcom** the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. (**1 Kings 11:5**)
- The reason why is that they have left me and begun to bow down to Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh the god

- of Moab and to **Milcom** the god of the sons of Ammon, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and my statutes and my judicial decisions like David his father. **(1 Kings 11:33)**
- 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)**
 - **Molech** is referred to in parallel with Baal, suggesting, if not an identification, at least some connection between the two. Numerous authorities regard **Molech** as a title rather than the name of a specific deity, and therefore, the thought has been advanced that the designation, **Molech** may have been applied to more than one god.
 - It is generally agreed that the **Malcam** referred to at;
 - And he got to take the crown of Malcam off its head, the weight of which was a talent of gold, along with precious stones, and it came to be upon David's head. And the spoil of the city that he brought out was very much. **(2 Samuel 12:30)**
 - But David took the crown of **Malcam** off its head, and found it to be a talent of gold in weight, and in it there were precious stones, and it came to be on David's head. And the spoil of the city that he brought out was very much. **(1 Chronicles 20:2)**
 - Is the idol image of the Ammonite god **Milcom**, or **Molech**, although the Hebrew term could be rendered, their king. **KJ, AS** Earlier in the Biblical account the Ammonite king is referred to by his name Hanun.
 - And it came about afterward that the king of the sons of Ammon came to die, and Hanun his son began to reign instead of him. **(2 Samuel 10:1)**
 - At this David said; I shall exercise loving-kindness toward Hanun the son of Nahash, just as his father exercised loving-kindness toward me. Accordingly David sent by means of his servants to comfort him over his father, and the servants of David proceeded to come into the land of the sons of Ammon. **(2 Samuel 10:2)**

- However, the princes of the sons of Ammon said to Hanun their lord; Is David honoring your father in your eyes in that he has sent to you comforters? Is it not for the sake of searching through the city and to spy it out and to overthrow it that David has sent his servants to you? (**2 Samuel 10:3**)
- So Hanun took the servants of David and shaved off half their beards and cut their garments in half to their buttocks and sent them away. (**2 Samuel 10:4**)
- Hence, it is reasonable to conclude that the name Hanun rather than **Malcam** would have appeared in the Scriptural record if the king rather than the idol were intended.
- Also, it is thought unlikely that a king would have worn a crown weighing about 34 kilograms (92 pounds troy). For the same reason it has been suggested that David placed **Malcam's** crown on his head only temporarily, perhaps to denote his victory over the false god.
- According to the reading of the **Targum**, which has been adopted by numerous translators, the crown had only one precious jewel. This has given rise to the view that it was the precious jewel, rather than the crown itself, that came to be on David's head.

•• Child Sacrifice To Molech

- God's Law to Israel prescribed the death penalty for anyone, even an alien resident, who would give his offspring to **Molech**.
- You are to say to the sons of Israel, Any man of the sons of Israel, and any alien resident who resides as an alien in Israel, who gives any of his offspring to **Molech**, should be put to death without fail. The people of the land should pelt him to death with stones. (**Leviticus 20:2**)
- And as for me, I shall set my face against that man, and I will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to **Molech** for the purpose of defiling my holy place and to profane my holy name. (**Leviticus 20:3**)
- And if the people of the land should deliberately hide their eyes from that man when he gives any of his offspring to **Molech** by not putting him to death. (**Leviticus 20:4**)

- Then I, for my part, shall certainly fix my face against that man and his family, and I shall indeed cut him and all those who have immoral intercourse along with him in having immoral intercourse with **Molech** off from among their people. (**Leviticus 20:5**)
- Nonetheless, apostate Israelites, both in the kingdom of Judah and in the ten-tribe kingdom, passed their offspring through the fire.
- And they continued to make their sons and their daughters pass through the fire and to practice divination and to look for omens, and they kept selling themselves to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, to offend him. (**2 Kings 17:17**)
- Therefore Yehowah got very incensed against Israel, so that he removed them from his sight. He did not let any remain but the tribe of Judah alone. (**2 Kings 17:18**)
- And their names were Oholah the older one and Oholibah her sister, and they came to be mine and began to give birth to sons and daughters. And as for their names, Oholah is Samaria, and Oholibah is Jerusalem. (**Ezekiel 23:4**)
- And Yehowah went on to say to me; Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah and tell them their detestable things? (**Ezekiel 23:36**)
- For they have committed adultery and there is blood on their hands, and with their dungy idols they have committed adultery. And, besides that, their sons whom they had borne to me they made pass through the fire to them as food. (**Ezekiel 23:37**)
- What is more, this is what they have done to me; They have defiled my sanctuary in that day, and my Sabbaths they have profaned. (**Ezekiel 23:38**)
- And when they had slaughtered their sons to their dungy idols they even proceeded to come into my sanctuary on that day to profane it, and, look! That is what they have done in the midst of my house. (**Ezekiel 23:39**)
- The passing through the fire to **Molech** has been regarded by some as signifying a purification ritual by means of which children

were devoted or dedicated to **Molech**, others understand this to mean actual sacrificing. That the Canaanites and apostate Israelites did sacrifice their children, there can be no question.

- You must not do that way to Yehowah your God, for everything detestable to Yehowah that he does hate they have done to their gods, for even their sons and their daughters they regularly burn in the fire to their gods. (**Deuteronomy 12:31**)
- And they would sacrifice their sons and their daughters to demons. (**Psalms 106:37**)
- So they kept spilling innocent blood, the blood of their sons and their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land came to be polluted with bloodshed. (**Psalms 106:38**)
- **King Ahaz of Judah proceeded to burn up his sons in the fire.**
- 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**)
- The parallel passage, at;
- And he went walking in the way of the kings of Israel, and even his own son he made pass through the fire, according to the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah drove out because of the sons of Israel. (**2 Kings 16:3**)
- Reads; **Even his own son he made pass through the fire.** This indicates that passing through the fire is at least sometimes synonymous with sacrificing.
- Likely, however, the worship of **Molech** was not always and everywhere the same. For example, King Solomon, under the influence of his foreign wives, built high places to **Molech** and other deities, but not until the time of Ahaz is mention made of child sacrifice.
- It was then that Solomon proceeded to build a high place to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to **Molech** the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (**1 Kings 11:7**)

- And that was the way he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods. (**1 Kings 11:8**)
- Undoubtedly if this abhorrent practice had existed earlier, it would have been denounced along with the other forms of idolatry existing during the reigns of the various kings.
- For this reason some commentators favor the view that the expression to pass through the fire originally applied to a purification ritual and later came to signify actual sacrifice.
- The passing to **Molech** mentioned in the footnote on,
- And you must not allow the devoting of any of your offspring to **Molech**. You must not profane the name of your God that way. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 18:21**)
- Evidently refers to devoting or dedicating children to this false god. This text has been variously translated:
 - You must not dedicate any of your children to the service of **Molech**. **AT**
 - Thou shalt not give any of thy seed to make them pass through the fire to **Molech**. **AS**
 - Thou shalt not give any of thy seed to be consecrated to the idol **Moloch**. **Dy**
 - You must not allow the devoting of any of your offspring to **Molech**. **NW**
- Ahaz and Manasseh are the only Judean kings referred to as making their offspring pass through the fire. However, with the impetus given by these two kings to child sacrifice, the practice apparently became entrenched among the Israelites in general.
- And he went walking in the way of the kings of Israel, and even his own son he made pass through the fire, according to the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah drove out because of the sons of Israel. (**2 Kings 16:3**)

- **And he made his own son pass through the fire, and he practiced magic and looked for omens and made spirit mediums and professional foretellers of events. He did on a large scale what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, to offend him.**
- **And he made his own son pass through the fire, and he practiced magic and looked for omens and made spirit mediums and professional foretellers of events. He did on a large scale what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, to offend him. (2 Kings 21:6)**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **And I would let them become defiled by their gifts when they made every child opening the womb pass through the fire, in order, that I might make them desolate, in order, that they might know that I am Yehowah. (Ezekiel 20:26)**
- **The children, at least at times, were first killed, rather than being burned alive.**
- **And you would take your sons and your daughters whom you had borne to me, and you would sacrifice these to them to be devoured, is that not enough of your acts of prostitution?**

(Ezekiel 16:20)

- **And you would slaughter my sons, and by making them pass through the fire you would give these to them. (Ezekiel 16:21)**
- **King Josiah defiled Topheth, the chief center of **Molech** worship in Judah, in order to prevent persons from making their offspring pass through the fire.**
- **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)**
- **Further, he caused the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun to cease from entering the house of Yehowah by the dining room of Nathan-melech the court official, which was in the porticoes, and the chariots of the sun he burned in the fire. (2 Kings 23:11)**
- **And the altars that were upon the roof of the roof chamber of Ahaz that the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in two courtyards of the house of Yehowah, the king pulled down, after which he crushed them there, and he cast their dust into the torrent valley of Kidron. (2 Kings 23:12)**
- **And the high places that were in front of Jerusalem, that were to the right of the Mount of Ruination, that Solomon the king of Israel had built to Ashtoreth the disgusting thing of the Sidonians and to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab and to **Milcom** the detestable thing of the sons of Ammon, the king made unfit for worship. (2 Kings 23:13)**
- **But this did not eradicate the practice for all time. Ezekiel, who began serving as a prophet 16 years after the death of Josiah, mentions it as occurring in his day.**
- **And in lifting up your gifts by making your sons pass through the fire, are you defiling yourselves for all your dungy idols down till today? At the same time shall I myself be inquired of by you people, O house of Israel? As I am alive, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, I will not be inquired of by you. (Ezekiel 20:31)**

- The view has been advanced that the **Molech** to whom children were sacrificed had the form of a man but the head of a bull. The image is said to have been heated red hot and the children cast into its outstretched arms, thus to fall into the flaming furnace below.
- This conception is largely based on the description of the Carthaginian Cronos or **Moloch** given by the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus of the First Century B.C.E. [Diodorus of Sicily, XX, 14,4-6]
- Regarding the practice of astrology in connection with worship of **Molech**.

See Also ASTROLOGERS