

The Gods of the Pagans Are Devils

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Psalm 106:34-40 They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions. Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.

Jeremiah 7:30-32 For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it. And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

- I. The issue that drives everything on earth is the battle between good and evil.
 - A. The concept that most people seem to have is that the battle between good and evil is the contest between the people who profess to believe in God and atheists, or those who profess that they do not believe in God.
 - B. Others have a slightly different concept, where the battle is between those who profess to believe in God and those who believe in other gods or forms of religion.
 - C. In both cases the side that represents evil is considered just a chaotic hodge-podge of men's imaginations, with no single source or intelligence behind it all.
 - D. This is the deception of this age, because the forces that promote evil and try to destroy good are clearly identifiable through all of human history.
 - E. To fail to understand that there really only two sides engaged in this spiritual battle always leads to being deceived by the evil.
 - F. The word "pagan" is defined as one who worships false gods, which means all religion outside of Christianity or Judaism, so it has always been the understanding of men that there are only two ways to go when it comes to deity and religion.
 - G. The battle waged by evil is to confuse, compromise, mix the two up together, and eventually change places so that good is called evil, and evil is called good.

Ezekiel 23:37-39 That they have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bare unto me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them. Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths. For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house.

- H. Paganism holds onto the name of God, and tries to appear to be serving God as long as it can in order to draw in all that are not spiritually discerning.
 1. But there is a point where all the bands are cast off and they openly worship the devils they call their gods.

- II. Pagan religion always follows the same path of development and has the same values, or lack thereof, practices, and end game.
- A. The Bible is the best source of information on paganism because it is described in detail and shown to be the same throughout history.
 - B. We can start with the inhabitants of the land that God promised to Abraham, and the vivid description of their depravity and religious insanity, for which God ordained their complete annihilation.
 - C. Leviticus 18 deals with the customs of the land of Canaan and their wickedness in detail.
 1. It begins with the matter of sex between men and women and then shows the pathway that follows when the moral boundaries that God placed on this matter are erased.
 2. Remember, the basic philosophy that paganism is built upon is that there are no absolutes; no absolute right, no absolute wrong, and nothing absolutely forbidden.

Verses 1-18 deal with incest and names every kind of kin and relation you can think of.

Verses 19-20 deal with fornication and adultery between a man and a woman.

Verses 21 forbids sacrificing children to Molech. (human sacrifice)

Verse 22 forbids homosexuality.

Verse 23 forbids bestiality

Jeremiah 19:9 shows that cannibalism is part of the end of their sin.

Leviticus 18:24-25 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.

3. So when the moral law concerning the relation between the sexes is undermined and destroyed, there is a rapid collapse of all morality, and good becomes evil and evil becomes good in a very short time.
- D. In pagan peoples God is always represented by male and female, with the female deity being dominant.
 - E. In the Bible this female deity is spoken of as Ashtoreth of the Zidonians. She was the Ishtar of the Accadians and the Astarte or Aphrodite of the Greeks. ([Jer 44:17](#); [1Ki 11:5,33](#); [2Ki 23:13](#)).
 1. So across all the different cultures the concept of pagan deities was basically the same.
 - F. The male deities were known as Baal, Milcom, Molech, Chemosh,
 1. There seemed to be a little more diversity and hierarchy among the male deities in their personality, character, and occupations.
 - G. Ammon's god, related to Moab's god *Chemosh*. The "fire god", worshipped with human sacrifices, purifications, and ordeals by fire, habitually, as other idols were occasionally; also with mutilation, vows of celibacy and virginity, and devotion of the firstborn.
 - H. The old Canaanite "Moloch" is always written with the article "the" Moloch; to him children were sacrificed in Tophet in the valley of the children of Hinnom. But Milcom's high place was on the Mount of Olives, and human sacrifices were not offered as they were to Moloch ([2Ki 23:10,13](#).) Josiah defiled the sanctuaries of both. Milcom was related to Chemosh, which is called the god of Ammon in [Jg 11:24](#), though elsewhere the god of Moab ([Nu 21:29](#)).

- I. Tophet (a place) appears again in Zedekiah's reign as the scene of child immolation to Moloch ([Jer 32:35](#)).

Jeremiah 32:34-35 But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

- J. God sternly forbade any letting their seed pass through the fire to Moloch ([Le 18:21](#); [20:2-5](#)) on pain of death, which the people should execute; otherwise God Himself would. The passing through the fire may have been sometimes only a fire baptism for purification of the dross of the body; but [Ps 106:37-38](#), shows that often expiatory human sacrifice was perpetrated, "they sacrificed their sons and daughters to "devils" (as Moloch was), and shed innocent blood ... unto the idols of Canaan"

Psalm 106:37-38 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.

(compare [2Ch 28:3](#); [Jer 19:5](#)).

2 Chronicles 28:3-4 Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

Jeremiah 19:4-5 Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, nor the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of innocents; They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind:

- K. In this respect Moloch answered to Baal the Phoenician sun god, to whom also human burnt offerings were sacrificed; also to Chemosh, to whom Mesha sacrificed his son ([2Ki 3:27](#); [Eze 16:20=21](#); [23:38-39](#)).

Ezekiel 16:19-21 My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour: and thus it was, saith the Lord GOD. Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter, That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them?

- L. Kimchi (on [2Ki 23:10](#)) represents Moloch as a hollow brass humanlike body, with ox's head, and hands stretched forth to receive. When it was thoroughly heated the priests put the babe into its hands, while "drums" (*tophim* from whence came Tophet) were beat to drown the infant cries, lest the parent should relent. The image was set within seven chapels: the first was opened to any one offering fine flour; the second to one offering turtle doves or young pigeons; the third to one offering a lamb; the fourth to one offering a ram; the fifth to one offering a calf; the sixth to one offering an ox; the seventh to one offering his son.
- M. So the Carthaginians, when besieged by Agathoeles, sacrificed to him 200 noble children by placing them one by one in his hands in such a manner that each fell into a pit of fire.

- N. Everywhere that man has went in the world through the centuries he has found the same kind of religion and morality among jungle savages, and among highly advanced civilizations alike.
1. There is no way of knowing all the times this horror has been played out on this earth through all the centuries.
 2. From the jungles of Africa, to the jungles of the Pacific islands, to the Aztecx, Mayans, and Incas of central and south Amercia, they found whole populations of people totally occupied with human sacrifice and mass murder as part of the religious system.
 3. They all had male and female deities which were their examples and justification for their own wicked practices.
 4. They were utterly depraved when it came to the sexual relations between men and women.
 5. Women and anyone else they chose was considered less than human and had no rights or consideration at all.
 6. Homosexuality and cannibalism were always a part of their culture and religion.
- O. Jesus, and the Apostles after his resurrection and ascension, lived and worked and preached the gospel in a pagan world – the Roman Empire.
1. We have been made to view the Romans as our benefactors who gave us our western civilization, and that has caused us to not look very closely at what the Romans were really about.
 2. They were completely pagan and had all the same depravity, lack of any moral compass, abuse, and disregard for human life as all the other pagans always have.
 3. It was acceptable to do anything you wanted to, sexually, as long as the other person was below you in social status.
 4. This included slaves, men or women, boys or girls, children or adults, or anything else you could think of.
 5. Their entertainment, which was really their religion, was watching people torn to pieces by lions, or killed by other men or animals. Human life had no value to them.
 6. They were lazy, indulged, fat, and lived completely for the indulgence of their lusts, at the expense of other people whom they conquered, or bought with money from the human trafficking that was big business.
 7. It was completely acceptable in Rome to kill your baby or throw it in the garbage dump. They did not consider it to be a human until it grew and developed more.

III. Does any of this sound familiar when you look around at our world now?

- A. Human history has been cycle after cycle of paganism and its destruction, and then its rebirth into another cycle of dominance.
- B. We are watching its rebirth before our eyes.
- C. We have 6000 years of history to show us where it is going.
- D. The only thing that has ever stopped it is the Gospel of Christ, or total annihilation.