

## SANCTITY OF LIFE – A SPIRITUAL WAR

### INTRODUCTION

- On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruled that abortion could not be deemed illegal throughout the United States.
  - As a result, the pro-life community has determined to declare the Sunday in proximity to that date Sanctify of Life Sunday.
  - The overturning of Roe v. Wade on June 24, 2022, was a significant victory for those who value life's sanctity.
- But this issue is much larger and broader than the moral and legal battles that have been recently waged.
- So much of our country's current confusion and chaos is related to the sacredness of life or lack thereof.

**MESSAGE THEME:** *Sanctity of Life is a Spiritual War Issue!*

### GOD'S VALUE FOR LIFE

- In Genesis, we see two things: *1. we are created in the image and likeness of God, and 2. God commands the man and the woman to be fruitful and to multiply.*
- Then the **first commandment**. "You shall have no other gods before me." forbade idolatry, which is fundamentally allowing anything to usurp God.
- The **sixth commandment** which forbade murder, the O. T. consequence for both was capital punishment.
- Related to abortion, **Psalm 139 reminds us** that even inside the mother's womb, David says, he was known intricately as God was forming his unseen substance.
- As we go through the Scriptures, we understand that **life does not begin outside the womb but inside the womb**; an example is when Mary and Elizabeth encounter each other.
- This morning, I want to highlight the fact that there has historically been an assault on children and that it is a spiritual war issue.

### FUNDAMENTALLY SPIRITUAL

**Psalm 106:35–38 (ESV)** *but they mixed with the nations and learned to do as they did. 36 They served their idols, which became a snare to them. 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.*

- Like Israel of old, daily in America, multiplied thousands of children are subjected to death (in the womb and outside the womb), abortion, kidnapping, and human trafficking.
- This is bigger than the political and judicial battlefields; it is a spiritual warfare issue.

### **A Historical Look**

- The taking of children's lives goes back to ancient cultures.
  - **The ancient Babylonians** (23<sup>rd</sup> Century BC; the time of Abraham and before)
  - The Aztecs
  - The Phoenicians
  - The people of Carthage
  - The people of Canaan (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan) made daily sacrifices to Molech, who demanded the sacrifice of children.
  - The Olmeca Civilization in Mesoamérica (Beliz, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala)
  - The Mayans
  - The Toltec civilization (southern part of N. America and Mexico)
  - The Incas
  - The Celts
  - The Romans
  - The Polynesians
  - The African tribes
  - And more, including the Israelites

### **A Historical Look – Israel**

- The Scriptures reveal that child sacrifice was not confined to pagan ancient civilizations; it was also practiced by Israelites.
- The earliest reference to child sacrifice in the Bible is found in Leviticus, where the practice is addressed by Moses in connection with Molech.

**Leviticus 18:21** (ESV) *You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.*

**Leviticus 20:1–5** (ESV) *The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. 3 I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name.*

- There is linguistic evidence for the continuity between the practice of child sacrifice in Canaan and a Phoenicia settlement.
- In Leviticus it refers to the god (Molech) who demands child sacrifice.
- The "passing through" refers to sacrificing by burning in a fire.
- **1 Kings 11** helps us to see that one of the high places that **Solomon** built for one of his foreign wives was to the god Molech.
  - In so doing, Solomon facilitated the sacrifice of children to Molech.

**Jeremiah 32:35** (ESV) *They built the high places of Baal in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.*

## **GOD'S PERSPECTIVE**

### God's Posture

- The penalty for sacrifice to Molech was harsh, i.e., stoning to death (**Lev. 20:2**); for it is a serious offense against the Lord.
  1. It defiles God's sanctuary (Lev. 20:3) and since His holy presence cannot abide in a place polluted by sin, it threatens abandonment by God of His people.
  2. It profanes God's holy name *making God appear less than the holy God that He is* (**Lev. 20:3**).

### Israel's Conduct

- Despite the covenantal stipulations and warnings against child sacrifice, Scripture records that some Israelites did in fact practice child sacrifice.
- **King Ahaz**, the 8th century B.C. king of Judah.

*2 Kings 16:3 (ESV) but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.*

- **King Manasseh**, Ahaz's grandson, followed in Ahaz's footsteps.
- These accounts of child sacrifice were not isolated.
- This characterized Israel.

**Jeremiah 7:31** (ESV) *And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.*



- **King Josiah**, Manasseh's grandson, had tried to bring about reformation among the Israelites.
- But Josiah's reformation was short-lived. Israel returned to her evil, soon upon his death.

### God's Judgment

- Because of this offense for which Israel is corporately responsible, Jeremiah prophesies on behalf of God, disaster for Israel.
  - If only the people would repent, disaster could be thwarted.
  - But the Israelites were a "stiff-necked" people who would not listen to God's words.

**Jeremiah 18:11–12** (ESV) *Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the LORD, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, everyone from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.'* 12 *"But they say, 'That is in vain! We will follow our own plans and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'*

- God used Babylon to judge Israel when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, leveling God's temple which signified God's just abandonment of His people, and leading Israel into captivity in 605 & 586 BC.
- While exiled in Babylon, the Lord, through Ezekiel reminded Israel of the reason they had been exiled.

**Ezekiel 23:36–37** (ESV) *The LORD said to me: "Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Declare to them their abominations. 37 For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. With their idols they have committed adultery, and they have even offered up to them for food the children whom they had borne to me.*

- Israel is still in the reverberations of God's judgment they experienced in 586 BC.
- A significant reason for God's judgment was their engagement in child sacrifice along with the other aspects of their rebellion and idolatry.

### APPLICATION

1. See Clearly and with Understanding.
  - This is a spiritual war, not merely political or moral.

- The real issue is Satan's hatred: hatred of God, hatred of God's Creation, and hatred of humanity who is created in the Image and likeness of God, hatred of children.
- The human accomplices of the prevailing narratives hate God. As Archbishop Carlo Maria Vicano states:
  - They hate life that only God can give.
  - They hate love that only God can provide.
  - They hate peace that can only come from God.
  - They serve Satan and his demons.

## 2. Resist and Strategically Wage War.

- This is a battle in which people and spiritual powers assault the body, soul, and spirit.
- A spirit of death and misopedia (hatred of children) rule in our land.
- Satan has gained a topos, a place of jurisdiction, for these demons of destruction in our culture.
- **Repentance** is necessary, that which Israel would not do.
- **Warfare prayer**; gather around the Lord and pray like Nehemiah and Daniel; pray in Christ's authority for a spiritual awakening and revival.
- **Political Engagement**

## 3. Take Action

- **Protect children** from all the assaults that come at them!
  - The spirit of Molech is alive today and still seeking to consume children in brutal assaults.
  - Whether unborn or born, the spiritual assault is ferocious.
- **Minister to Victims**, both children and adults!
  - Promised freedom and fulfillment result in bondages, destruction, ruin, and death. Many who in being deceived bought into the devil's schemes.
  - Trafficking is at an all-time high of kids being lured or kidnapped into exploitation.
  - Be part of the solution, where God calls you.

**Care Net**

**Scarlet Road**

- **Political Engagement**

