

## “Tisk, Tisk, Tisk?”

By Roelf L. Ruffner

Have you ever wondered why the Law Moses and the prophets say so much about idolatry? Here are some references to Moloch or Molech, the old Canaanite deity: Leviticus 18:21; Leviticus 20:2–5; 2 Kings 23:10; Jeremiah 32:35. Below is a comment I found in [Wikipedia](#) (Not the best of sources.) concerning Moloch. Carthage was originally a Phoenician (ancient Tyre & Sidon in Lebanon) colony in what is now part of the nation of Libya. The worship of Moloch was carried to Carthage from Phoenicia. I have also read that archeological digs at the site of ancient Carthage support the Roman’s “post-war propaganda” mentioned in this commentary.

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### Classical Greek and Roman accounts (concerning Molech)

“Later commentators have compared these accounts with similar ones from Greek and Latin sources speaking of the offering of children by fire as sacrifices in the Punic city of Carthage, a Phoenician colony. Cleitarchus, Diodorus Siculus and Plutarch all mention burning of children as an offering to Cronus or Saturn, that is to Ba’al Hammon, the chief god of Carthage. Issues and practices relating to Moloch and child sacrifice may also have been exaggerated for effect. After the Romans defeated Carthage and totally destroyed the city, they engaged in post-war propaganda to make their arch-enemies seem cruel and less civilized.

Paul G. Mosca, in his thesis described below, translates Cleitarchus' paraphrase of a scholium to Plato's *Republic* as:

There stands in their midst a bronze statue of Kronos, its hands extended over a bronze brazier, the flames of which engulf the child. When the flames fall upon the body, the limbs contract and the open mouth seems almost to be laughing until the contracted body slips quietly into the brazier. Thus it is that the 'grin' is known as 'sardonic laughter,' since they die laughing.

Diodorus Siculus (20.14) wrote:

There was in their city a bronze image of Cronus extending its hands, palms up and sloping toward the ground, so that each of the children when placed thereon rolled down and fell into a sort of gaping pit filled with fire.

Diodorus also relates that relatives were forbidden to weep and that when Agathocles defeated Carthage, the Carthaginian nobles believed they had displeased the gods by substituting low-born children for their own children. They

attempted to make amends by sacrificing 200 children of the best families at once, and in their enthusiasm actually sacrificed 300 children.

In the book *The History of Sicily from the Earliest Times* the author recounts the tale slightly differently. He states that the Carthaginian nobles had actually acquired and raised children not of their own for the express purpose of sacrificing them to the god. The author states that during the siege, the 200 high-born children were sacrificed in addition to another 300 children who were initially saved from the fire by the sacrifice of these acquired substitutes.

Plutarch wrote in *De Superstitiones* 171:

... but with full knowledge and understanding they themselves offered up their own children, and those who had no children would buy little ones from poor people and cut their throats as if they were so many lambs or young birds; meanwhile the mother stood by without a tear or moan; but should she utter a single moan or let fall a single tear, she had to forfeit the money, and her child was sacrificed nevertheless; and the whole area before the statue was filled with a loud noise of flutes and drums took the cries of wailing should not reach the ears of the people.”

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moloch>

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Lest we get too high and mighty about these historical atrocities, let us think about our own country. Millions of babies have been aborted (slaughtered) since 1973 to the idols of convenience and hedonism. Do the babies aborted today feel any less pain as they are murdered than those sacrificed to Molech?

We must also remember that so-called “religion” or “faith” can take many forms, some barbaric. Invariably even God’s religion, New Testament Christianity, can digress into many forms. For example, the death cult called “Islam” had its roots in Christianity, Judaism and ancient Arab paganism. Christianity once flourished in areas of the Middle East which are now predominately Muslim. Yet some of Islam’s adherents today behead “infidels” (non-Muslims), including children, in the name of their false god Allah. We may stand aghast at such atrocities done in the name of religion. But the same thing can happen to us if we leave the guidance of God’s word and follow the whims and false doctrines of men. *“Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”* (1 Cor. 10:11,12).