

OT Child Sacrifice and Modern Day Abortion

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Child Sacrifice and Abortion



So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying,
"Every son who is born you shall cast into the river..."

Exodus 1:22

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**Sanctity of
Human Life Day**

January 15, 2017



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Tophets identified in the western and central Mediterranean



A Carthaginian
“Priest” with a
child under his
arm...

1. Parallels Between Ancient Child Sacrifice and Modern Day Abortion

- At Carthage, the main reason for sacrificing a child was to avert potential dangers in a crisis or to gain success through fulfilling a vow.
- Today, abortion often occurs because the pregnancy is unexpected, and fears about the future often govern the decision
- Or, some people simply see the pregnancy as an intrusion into their self-serving lifestyle and an obstacle in the way of the road to success.
- Socio-economic concerns sometimes played a role in the decision to sacrifice a child in Carthage.

“Therefore the Carthaginians, believing that the misfortune [an attack by the king of Syracuse] had come to them from the gods, betook themselves to every manner of supplication of the divine powers... In their zeal to make amends for their omission, they selected two hundred of the noblest children and sacrificed them publicly.”

—First century BC Greek historian
Diodorus Siculus

“To our lady, to Tanit, the face of Ba'al and to our lord, to Ba'al Hammon that which was vowed... Because he (the deity) heard his (the dedicant's) voice and blessed him.”

-Typical Inscription
from Carthage

They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; 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.

Psalm 106:36-38, ESV



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They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of **SEXUAL** “**LIBERATION**”, and the land was polluted with blood.**

Psalm 106:36-38, ESV



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They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of FINANCIAL FREEDOM**, and the land was polluted with blood.

Psalm 106:36-38, ESV



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They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of CAREER AMBITION**, and the land was polluted with blood.

Psalm 106:36-38, ESV



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They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of AVOIDING HARDSHIP**, and the land was polluted with blood.

Psalm 106:36-38, ESV



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They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of SELF-SERVING AUTONOMY**, and the land was polluted with blood.

Psalm 106:36-38, ESV



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They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of “god-like” power over life and death**, and the land was polluted with blood.

Psalm 106:36-38, ESV



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2. Parallels Between Ancient Child Sacrifice and Modern Day Abortion

- Cultic temple prostitution was part of Canaanite religion, and closely tied to child sacrifice
- Lev. 20 forbids the practice, and the immediate context also deals with sexual immorality. A child born of out wedlock with a cultic prostitute could be disposed of through sacrifice.
- Today, 82% of abortions are performed on unmarried women.
- In both cases, the men leave the women to bear the consequences. The women are not “liberated”, they are enslaved.

3. Parallels Between Ancient Child Sacrifice and Modern Day Abortion

- Several scholars have noted evidence of child sacrifice being partially motivated by population control.
- At present, abortion is sanctioned around the world, even encouraged, by some societies as a means of population control.
- In China, communist party agents actually impose great social and economic pressure on couples to abort their offspring if they already have one child.

4. Parallels Between Ancient Child Sacrifice and Modern Day Abortion

- Two inscriptions at Carthage show that occasionally the parents would sacrifice a handicapped child hoping to later receive a healthy one as a substitute.
- In one inscription, a man named Tuscus says that he gave Ba'al "his mute son Bod'astart, a defective child, in exchange for a healthy one."
- Today, if doctors believe a child in-utero to have medical problems, the parents are often advised to consider terminating the pregnancy.
- To carry to term and raise a "defective" child is not expected of the parents since they can exchange the frail one they now have for a healthy one in the future.

5. Parallels Between Ancient Child Sacrifice and Modern Day Abortion

- Carthage was a thriving civilization, and at its height, the archaeological evidence seems to indicate that child sacrifice reached its apex.
- The flourishing of abortion in modern America, like child sacrifice in ancient Carthage at the height of its civilization, is an unmistakable parallel.

“...it is impossible to deal with this subject at any length without coming to terms with the human dimension: how could a culture so well developed morally, intellectually and materially tolerate so ‘abominable’ a custom? How could a sophisticated people sanction what seems to be such a barbaric practice for so long a time? How at the most visceral and critical level could human parents bring about the destruction of their own child?”

--Dr. P.G. Mosca

“It is interesting to note that of all the societies I have studied, primitive cultures have little evidence of abortion or infanticide; they are primarily the practices of the higher cultures of antiquity. It seems to me that the only enlightening difference between our societies and Carthage of old is that we have sanitized the process. We do not offer our children to some idol; we destroy them in a hospital, in a most orderly and hygienic fashion. Ours are sacrifices of convenience without any façade of religious motivation...”

--Dr. John Currid

**“In truth, we are
merely
unmasked
Carthaginians.”**

--Dr. John Currid





Figure 4. Stele from the Tophet of Tharros, Sardinia (no. 142; Mascati & Uberti 1985: fig. 23 and pl. LVI). The stone ranges in height between 31.5 and 28.8cm and between 20.7 and 14.7cm in width.

Image of a priest and child from the Tophet at Tharros, Sardinia



A Carthaginian
“Priest” with a
child under his
arm...

What Shall WE do?

INDIFFERENCE IS NOT A MORAL OPTION FOR THE CHURCH

“And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, 5 then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech.”

Leviticus 20: 4-5

What Shall WE do?

- Pray for the church to ground its moral convictions in Scripture. There are many churches who avoid this subject, or justify the practice of abortion based on erroneous arguments.
- Support your local pregnancy support center. At BBC, we support

Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton

BRIGHT **H**  **PE**
Pregnancy Support Centers

www.BrightHopeCenters.org

What Shall WE do?

- Pray for laws to be changed that will protect the life of the unborn child.
- Members of the church can advocate civil laws in society that are consistent with the moral law of God.
- Legalized abortion is an “impious decree.”

“With what conscience will they [civil magistrates] subscribe impious decrees with that hand which they know has been appointed to write the acts of God? In a word, if they remember that they are the vice regents of God, it behooves them to watch with all care, vigilance, and industry, that they may in themselves exhibit a kind of image of the Divine Providence, guardianship, goodness, benevolence, and justice.”

--John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion: Of Civil Government*, 4.20.6.

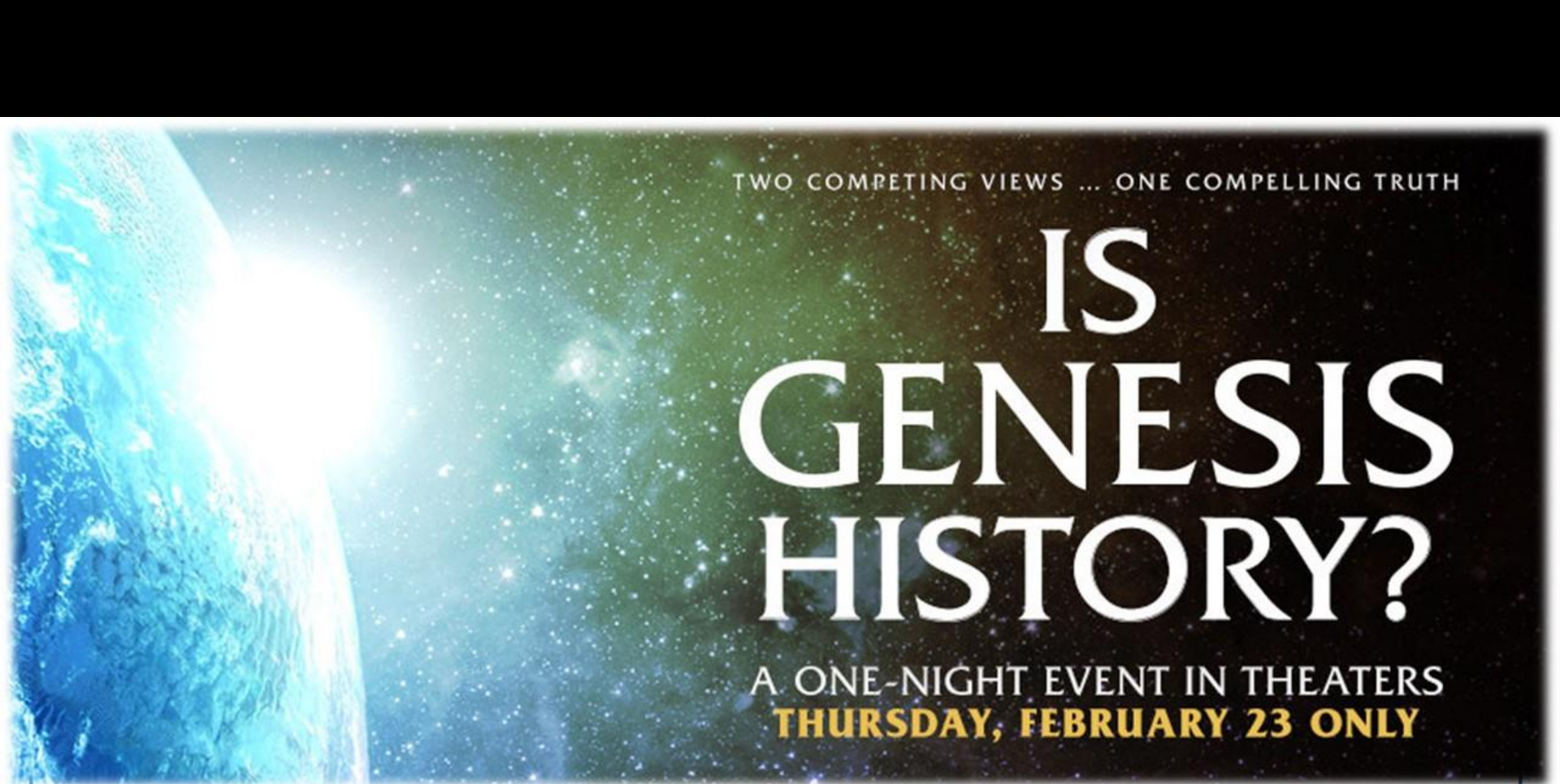
cf. 1 Kgs 12:28-30; Hosea 5:11,13

“For the fetus, though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being, and it is a monstrous crime to rob it of the life which it has not yet begun to enjoy. If it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man’s house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a fetus in the womb before it has come to light..”

--John Calvin, *Commentary on Exodus 21*

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead, expose them.”

Ephesians 5:11



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