

TOPHET: Can't we just all get along???

Genesis 15:13 And he said unto Abram, **Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;** **Genesis 15:14** And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: **and afterward shall they come out with great substance.** **Genesis 15:15** And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. **Genesis 15:16** **But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.**

Leviticus 18:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Leviticus 18:2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the LORD your God. **Leviticus 18:3** **After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.** **Leviticus 18:4** **Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God.** **Leviticus 18:5** **Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments...**

Leviticus 18:21 **And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.** **Leviticus 18:22** Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. **Leviticus 18:23** Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.

Leviticus 18:24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: **for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:**

Leviticus 18:27 **(For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)**

Leviticus 18:28 That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, **as it spued out the nations that were before you.**

Tophet: What was it?

In a nutshell Tophet was 2 things:

1. Child sacrifice

2. The place of / for child sacrifice

This was quite common in the ANE (and frankly not uncommon in many cultures)

Tophet: Why was child sacrifice done?

- Pleasing the gods
- Placating the gods → since the gods tended to be angry
- Discerning the will of the gods
- Obtaining the favor of the gods

This could be for just about any reason:

Example: Josiah's reforms

2 Kings 23:10 And he defiled Topheth (תֹּפֶת־הַחַיִּים), which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom (בְּגִי בְנֵי הַיְיָ), that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

- Conforming to the culture → no one had much of a problem with this
- Obeying the laws of the land → it was completely legal
- Fitting in &/ going along with the current of popular opinion

2 Kings 16:1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. **2 Kings 16:2** Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father. **2 Kings 16:3** **But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel.** **2 Kings 16:4** **And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places (בְּבָמֹת), and on the hills, and under every green tree.**

2 Kings 21:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzi-bah. **2 Kings 21:2** And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. **2 Kings 21:3** For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. **2 Kings 21:4** And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. **2 Kings 21:5** And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. **2 Kings 21:6** **And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.**

2 Kings 3:26 And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not. **2 Kings 3:27** **Then he took his eldest son that should have**

reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

TOPHET:

2 Kings 23:10 And he defiled Topheth (תֹּפֶת), which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom (בְּגֵי בְנֵי הַחַיְהוֹן), that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

Jeremiah 7:31 And they have built the high places of Tophet (בְּמִקְוֹת הַתֹּפֶת בְּגֵיא בְּנֵי-הַחַיְהוֹן), 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. **Jeremiah 7:32** Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet (תֹּפֶת), nor the valley of the son of Hinnom (בְּגֵיא בְּנֵי-הַחַיְהוֹן), but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

Jeremiah 19:6 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet (הַהִקְפָּת וְגֵיא בְּנֵי-הַחַיְהוֹן), nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter.

Jeremiah 19:11 And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet (וּבְהִקְפָּת), till there be no place to bury.

Jeremiah 19:12 Thus will I do unto this place, saith the LORD, and to the inhabitants thereof, and even make this city as Tophet (תֹּפֶת):

Jeremiah 19:13 And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet (הַהִקְפָּת), because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods.

Jeremiah 19:14 Then came Jeremiah from Tophet (מִתֹּפֶת), whither the LORD had sent him to prophesy; and he stood in the court of the LORD's house; and said to all the people,

Tophet: So, what's the big deal?

➤ This is and was the blood of innocence

Jeremiah 19:4 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;**

➤ This is and was against God's commandments

➤ This is and was against God's instructions

➤ This is and was against God's intentions

Jeremiah 19:5 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:**

Jeremiah 7:31 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. Jeremiah 7:32** 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.

Jeremiah 32:35 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.**

Leviticus 18:21 And thou shalt **not** let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, **neither** shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 20:2 Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones.

Deuteronomy 12:31 Thou shalt **not** do so unto the LORD thy God: **for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.**

Deuteronomy 18:10 There shall **not** be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

Psalms 106:37 Yea, they sacrificed their sons And their daughters unto devils,

Psalms 106:38 **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.

Ezekiel 20:31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: **and shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel?** As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be inquired of by you.

Ezekiel 23:37 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. **Ezekiel 23:38** Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths. **Ezekiel 23:39** 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.