

Message #36**Leviticus 20:1-8**

In fact, there are religions God hates and there are religions we ought to hate. Psalm 31:6 says, “I hate those who regard vain idols.”

There is a name that shows up four times in these eight verses—the name is Molech. God says nothing good about this name and He gives His people serious warning against any connected to it.

According to Dr. Unger, Palestine excavations have uncovered evidences of many infant skeletons in burial places around heathen shrines (Unger, p. 488). Apparently, infants were offered as sacrifices to this heathen “god” (Ezek. 16:20-22). Even though in the mind of God no form of idolatry was more hated, God’s people continued to be lured into it. In fact, Solomon built a place of worship for Molech, for one of his idolatrous wives (I Kings 11:7) and it was detestable in the sight of God. Worship services actually contained sacrifices and sexual immorality.

PART OF BEING HOLY AS GOD WOULD HAVE US BE HOLY IS TO REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN OR SUPPORT PAGAN PRACTICES WHICH ARE AN ABOMINATION TO GOD AND TO ACTUALLY STAND AGAINST THEM.

We live in an era that promotes toleration. Total toleration is not Biblical and not godly. You and I are not holy when we tolerate everything; we are worldly.

Now, before we begin our journey, let me point out from **verse 1** and **2** that this instruction is for God’s people. In other words, God is teaching His people that there are to be things that they hate and stand against and punish. He is teaching His own people that if you are going to be holy, you cannot be a people or place of total toleration and acceptance of everything and everyone.

This section of Scripture is not designed to convert a Molech worshipper, although it could have that effect. It is designed to instruct a God worshipper as to what God demands to be holy and consecrated to Him.

KEY THOUGHT #1 – Any person who gives his offspring to be offered as a sacrifice to Molech shall be stoned to death by the people who live in that land.
20:2

Public stoning most of the time was done outside the camp of Israel (Lev. 24:14; Deut. 22:24; I Kings 21:13). Stoning was practiced even during N.T. times (Matt. 21:35; 23:37; John 10:31; Acts 7:58-60; 14:5). The congregation was to participate in the stoning of one who did such a thing. This would demonstrate that the entire community had the same hatred for this sin as God did.

It would also be a public statement that this sin is not tolerated in this place and if one pursues it, one pays the consequence.

At times, in both the O.T. and N.T. economies, holiness demands that the people of God stand against certain sins and against certain people.

KEY THOUGHT #2 – Any person who gives his offspring to Molech will be cut off by God from His people. **20:3**

God would remove any blessings from this person and would actually see to it that His family would never prosper and never be able to worship Him again. If one dabbles in certain sins, God may never permit that one to enter into close fellowship with Him.

KEY THOUGHT #3 – Any person in the community who does not follow this action against one who worships Molech will also be judged by God. **20:4-5**

Ladies and gentlemen, see an important principle of holiness—condoning sin and doing nothing about sin is viewed by God as participating in sin.

One cannot ever be holy and be neutral about sin. If we know that someone is involved in abominable sin against God and we condone it or do nothing about it, God views us as participatory in the sin.

KEY THOUGHT #4 – Any person who consults with mediums or spiritists will be cut off from God's people and from God's blessings. **20:6**

Witchcraft and covens and spiritists and mediums do not just reveal a type of religious thinking; they reveal a deep departure and animosity toward the God of the Bible.

KEY THOUGHT #5 – God wants His people consecrated and holy through the obeying and practicing of His Word. **20:7-8**

Holiness comes through obedience. If one is a holy person, one will have a passion to obey the Word of God.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

- 1. If we are to be holy, there are some people we must turn from.**
- 2. If we are to be holy, we cannot condone sin or one who is practicing sin.**
- 3. There are serious consequences for God's people who dabble with satanic things.**
- 4. Holiness comes through practicing obedience to the Word of God.**