

**Adult Sunday School Lesson**  
**Ezekiel 16/ 23 and Psalm 139**  
**Image Bearers**  
**January 16, 2022**  
**Sanctity of Life Sunday**

**Situational Context:** A Study for sanctity of Life Sunday from Ezekiel and Psalm 139. An aspect of Israel's apostasy into idolatry included the sacrificing of their children to idols.

**Lesson Theme: Psalm 139:13-16** A new human being is no accident, even given the various means by which they were conceived. God's judgment upon Israel included judgment for sacrificing their children to idols.

**1. The Lord's Children: Ezekiel 16:20-21 (ESV) <sup>20</sup> And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter <sup>21</sup> that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them?**

**Interpretation:** In Jerusalem these practices were associated with the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, south of the city.

**Supporting Texts:**

**Leviticus 18:21 (ESV) <sup>21</sup> 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 20:2-5 (ESV) <sup>2</sup> "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. <sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> 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.

**Psalm 127:3-5 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. <sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. <sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

### **Discussion Starters:**

**Why might child sacrifice be an expression of pragmatism?**

**What led to this situation?**

**What are the consequences of the devaluing of fetal humans?**

**2. Their Blood Cry's Out: Ezekiel 23:36-39 (ESV)** <sup>36</sup> The LORD said to me: "Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Declare to them their abominations. <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> Moreover, this they have done to me: they have defiled my sanctuary on the same day and profaned my Sabbaths. <sup>39</sup> For when they had slaughtered their children in sacrifice to their idols, on the same day they came into my sanctuary to profane it. And behold, this is what they did in my house.

**Interpretation:** Oholah and Oholibah are names for Israel and Judah. The Lord call on the prophet to judge the Northern and Southern Kingdoms for their idolatry and child sacrifice. They would even go to the Temple of the Lord after sacrificing their children.

### **Supporting Texts:**

**Genesis 4:10-11 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> And now you are

cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

**Ezekiel 23:4 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup> Oholah was the name of the elder and Oholibah the name of her sister. They became mine, and they bore sons and daughters. As for their names, Oholah is Samaria, and Oholibah is Jerusalem.

### **Discussion Starters:**

**How does this text illustrate the spiritual condition of Israel and Judah?**

**How might this illustrate the spiritual condition of a professing Christian?**

**Is Infanticide forgivable?**

**3. An Ordained Life, Psalms 139:13-16 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, <sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

**Interpretation:** God made me like this. God knows me intimately. God has sovereignly ordained every aspect of my life even to my death.

### **Supporting Texts:**

**Isaiah 44:24 (NIV)** "This is what the Lord says-- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,

**Job 10:8-10 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup> "Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me? <sup>9</sup> Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again? <sup>10</sup> Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese,

**Discussion Starters:**

**What is the psalmist's response to his own being?**

**What is the psalmist's response to his own body?**

**Describe the extent of Gods sovereignty in our lives.**

**What about autistic, or Down's Syndrome children?**