

CONTRACT ON CHILDREN – PART 1

I think every Christian would agree that children today are under attack. As Christians we usually focus on one or two problem areas, but I believe there's a much broader problem we often miss. What we're seeing happen today is the result of a general contract that's gone out against our children - aimed to pervert and destroy the whole idea of childhood.

Jesus made some pretty radical statements. One of them was, "I assure you, unless you are converted and become like little children, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3) To become converted is radical enough, but how do you become like a little child?

In Mark 9, Jesus takes a child in His arms and says, "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me." Then in Mark 10:13 it says, "And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them." Imagine. As the children tried to come to Jesus, the disciples got out their baseball bats and said, "We're going to protect the Master from undue interference from little people. Let's get rid of these kids!" And Jesus, rebuking them, puts a little child in their midst and shocks them by basically saying, "Unless you become like him you're not going to make it. You can't be My followers!"

Characteristics Of Children

What are some of the characteristics of childlikeness - not childishness - that Jesus may have had in mind when He used the illustrations He used concerning children? Let's look at some of the qualities we find in children.

Children have a simple faith. They implicitly believe what a reliable authority tells them, without argument or debate.

Children are full of trust. They bring out whatever real care and compassion there is in an adult's heart. (Prov. 3:5-7)

Children have a freshness - a brand new approach to looking at life. Have you ever taken a little kid out and shown him something he's never seen before? It's neat just to watch him. Parents who've seen horses and butterflies a thousand times before just plod along saying things like "Hurry up!" But little kids get to totally engrossed with simple everyday things.

About 15 years ago a survey was conducted to study people throughout history who'd been called geniuses: the Michelangelos, the Leonardo Da Vinci types, and the Einsteins. They examined their childhood, their education, and when possible, measured their intelligence quotients - analyzing what constituted genius. What was interesting was not all of them had a significantly higher IQ than the average smart person. Their IQ wasn't the prime common factor. The common factor was their ability to look at everything as if they'd never seen it before - to see it in a totally new light. They could look at something other people had seen a thousand times and make connections between it and other things, then come up with an incredible breakthrough somewhere. In other words, a genius has the ability to see as a little child would see.

Another quality children have is the ability to forgive quickly. It's not easy for them to hold a grudge. "And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Eph. 4:32)

Children are not afraid to ask questions all the time. They are perpetually curious, constant learners. (Luke 10:21)

Children are hero-worshippers. It is the easiest thing in the world for them to look up to someone and try to be like them. (Eph. 5:1)

Children have a natural humility. Their meekness is the unselfconscious knowledge that they're only little and have much to learn from someone bigger, wiser, and stronger than they are. They know they're just little kids. (Matt. 18:4)

Unspoiled little children are unsophisticated. They have not yet learned to be jaded or cynical. As a young boy, Joseph had some incredible prophetic dreams about his, and his brothers', future! Can you imagine how uncool it was for Joseph to tell his dream to his brothers? Imagine going up to your older brothers and saying, "Hey, guess what? I had a dream last night. There was the sun and the moon and the same number of stars as you guys, and you were all bowing down to me! How do you like that?" It's recorded that they did *not* like it! See Genesis 37:5-11. Little kids are uncool. They're the opposite of a valley girl.

And yes, despite the Fall, there is a relative innocence. Have you ever looked into a baby's eyes? It's unspoiled landscape. They're not yet alive to all the ugly things the adult world has constructed for children. Unhurt children are joyful. They enjoy little things tremendously and laugh a lot.

Children are loving. They find it natural to hug and cuddle and throw themselves into their parents' arms. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father," which means "Dearest Daddy." (Rom. 8:15)

Children are playful. They spend a huge amount of time just playing. It's the primary way they develop and learn. Some of the best motivational teachers in industry and business say play is one of the best ways to develop creativity and problem-solving.

Children enjoy a unique simplicity. They live in an uncomplicated, direct-approach world. Children live, love, laugh, play, and rest without complexity. (Luke 18:17)

Children are zealous. Whatever they do, they "do it with all their might." (Col. 3:23)

Children live in a world of absolutes. Things are either right or wrong, good or bad. They have not learned the meaning of the word "compromise." (1 John 3:7-10) Children can also be tactless. They say what they see and see no reason to make things any different from what they really are. Bill Gothard calls them "God's little spies." I have a younger sister named Vonny. When we were little my mother owned a dress shop. Her best customers were those who were rather stout, because they needed to buy more material for their custom-made dresses. One day mother sat Vonny on the counter while she rushed out to make a cup of tea, and told her to let her know if anybody came in. So in comes this upper-

class lady and my little sister, with her Shirley Temple type curls, yells in a voice that could be heard all over Manurewa, "Mommy, there's a big fat lady here in the shop!" I don't remember if mother lost a customer or not, but she never left Vonny on the counter alone again!

Children: Our Living Example

Childhood is a constant rebuke to our failure to be like God. It is a universal witness to the heart of Christ in the world. Little children are God's ongoing witness of His kingdom; a perpetual reminder of what it means to belong to the Father. Children are an unspoken sermon in every home for simplicity, joy, and humility of that which makes the world worth living in. They remind us what it means to be a real Christian.

So, what does God want a Christian to look like? Forgiving. Trusting. Knowing how much we need to learn. Living in a world of clear right and wrong. Full of joy, faith, and love. Fresh every morning. Wholehearted. Looking at everything like it has never been looked at before. Playful. Simple and direct. And at the end of the day totally relaxed in rest. Is this what adults even Christian adults look like today? No wonder God hallowed childhood.

But, what will happen to the world if it loses childhood?

Are We Still Sacrificing Our Children?

I've listed some of the qualities of childlikeness, but what happens when these quartiles are perverted?

What happens when you pervert hero worship? If we insert the demonic into hero worship we get things like Dungeons and Dragons. Even the cartoons today revolve around the supernatural. Every little kid in the world loves their hero. They pattern themselves after them. They dress like them and talk like them. The music industry, for example, has stolen the place that belongs properly to Deity - so have sports figures and movie stars. When we see the abuse of things like this, we're looking at the stealing of an in-built childlikeness that was designed by God.

Why do you think God designed little kids to be hero-worshippers? It's especially strong around the Junior High School age. (Remember when you fell desperately in love with your English teacher?) For me it was Superman and Batman. I believe God's pattern was to develop hero worship through the family. Little children are supposed to look up to relatives, especially their mothers and fathers, and begin to model their lives after them. That's why they dress up like them and play grown-up. When a family gives their children a true picture of God, kids can really get excited about knowing Him and worshipping the right Person.

So what has the world done? It's seen a huge potential. Its name is Greed and it gets in there and turns fallen people into idols - it captures our music and games and cartoons. Take for instance, the best-selling movie of all time, "E.T. The Extra Terrestrial." I mean who in the world would love a little creature like E.T. and want to take him home? This thing is worse-looking than a frog but he's been treated like God and made to look like a little Christ. That's why you'll find over 32 direct references or parallels to Christ's life in "E.T." E.T. creates, heals, and brings life wherever he goes. His adopted mother's name is Mary, and when he dies the clock records it at 15:35 military time which is 3:35 P.M., the approxi-

mate time Jesus died. E.T. also rises again - and will return because he's promised to; the next movie will be his Second Coming.

Let's look at some of the other opposites of childlike qualities.

The opposite of acceptance is skepticism, a characteristic of our age.

The opposite of humility is pride and arrogance.

The opposite of trust is distrust or fear. Fear is the opposite of faith. It's the devil's equivalent of faith. Satan gets the same mileage out of fear as God gets out of faith. In order for Satan to accomplish things, he must develop fear in people's lives.

What about dependence? It becomes independence. By the way, an independent spirit is the first fundamental step in any deception. Do you want to be deceived? It doesn't start with your doctrine. It doesn't even start with your character. It starts with your *spirit*, with a heart-attitude of independence from God. From there it moves to your character and begins to show up in your morals. Finally, it moves to your understanding and affects your message; what you say and teach. Most of the time when we look for deception, we look for what a person believes. But a wrong attitude or spirit is actually the first sign of deception. Does someone have a servant's heart or an independent heart? When you see somebody with an independent spirit, they're already deceived and on their way to something worse.

What's the opposite of honesty? Deceitfulness. Not telling the truth anymore. This is where the prophet's edge gets cut out of society. We're too afraid we might offend somebody so we alter things. Here's one of Jesus' speeches to some religious and business dignitaries. They came to take a few notes because they heard He might have something significant to say. His opening statements went something like this: "You all remind me of corpses that nobody has had a chance to bury yet. You stink! You are a bunch of snakes, a generation of vipers on your way to hell. And thank you very much for inviting me." That's not exactly out of your, "How to Win Jews and Influence Greeks," book. It's not your basic, "How to Get in Solid Favor," message. But Jesus did that all the time. Right when people were eating lunch with Him He'd say things like, "You pretender! You hypocrite!"

Children have a naturalness about them. When that's perverted life becomes artificial, forced, and ugly. There's nothing more horrible than a nine year old posing on the streets because he's a male prostitute. There's something absolutely alien about it. A child that isn't a child; a child that's 50 years old inside the eye sockets. There's something totally awful about that because it's so unnatural.

In The Last Days

Most of us are familiar with the prophecy in chapter two of Joel which promises the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all mankind. Do you remember who's to be the special receivers of this outpouring? The sons and the daughters. A generation was made to know that this work of the Holy Spirit would begin with their children. The young men will see visions and the old men will dream dreams. So there's the old, and the new prophetic edge that's coming. There will also be an outpouring among people known to be servants, both male and female. On the day of Pentecost, Peter said, "But this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel." (Acts 2:16-21)

In Joel chapter three there's a description of the society that exists when this outpouring takes place. "They have also cast lots for My people, traded a boy for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine..." (vs. 3) That phrase speaks of child prostitution. God brings a judgment on these nations. Their own children suffer a judgment they bring on themselves.

Then in Joel 3:6 it continues, "The children also of Judas and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border." Here we have children sold to Greece. What do we know about Greece? First of all, the Greeks were the top philosophers of their time, their philosophy much like Eastern thought. Secondly, as it collapsed, there was widespread homosexuality in Greece. As they began to fall you can see the change in their statues; from very strong, militant, father-of-the-family images to more and more effeminacy as the nation began to sell itself into sodomy and lesbianism. As these children were sold their sexual purity was not the only thing destroyed their minds went as well.

Unfortunately, what went on in Greece sounds very much like what's happening today.

Most of us are aware that children today are subjects of terrific abuse from many sources. A young girl who was sexually abused by her father from the age of six stated brokenheartedly, "I feel like a trash can." And one of the most major abuses we're familiar with is abortion; over a million and a half a year in America alone. Loren Cunningham recently said, "The safest place to be in this country, per population group, is on Death Row." Statistically, there's less chance of you getting killed on death row than there is in any other population group. In contrast, it's also been said that the most dangerous place to be on earth is in your own mother's womb.

Forget the Greeks. That's good old American civilization in the 1990s.

History Repeats Itself

Twice before in Biblical history there have been contracts put out on children. The neat thing is, both times there was *supernatural protection*; and believing parents who inter-vened.

Once there was a mad king named Pharaoh who realized the significance of Israel's impending multiplication. Knowing what might happen, he put a contract out on their first-born males just when Moses was about to be born.

Can you imagine? Pharaoh ordered the Israelites to take their newborn males and throw them in the river. So Moses' parents did precisely that. However, looking for creative alternatives, they put him in a little boat before they threw him in! I believe it was guided by God's hands, believing prayer, and parents who trusted God and were not afraid to defy a death threat from a king. And you know the incredible circumstances...

Pharaoh, busy with the affairs of the state, didn't have time to check up on what his daughter was into. She was out taking a bath in the river when this little boat came along, pushed by God's hand of destiny. God parked it directly in front of her and woke up baby Moses. Pharaoh's daughter looked and said, "Oh! It's a baby!" So she went to her father and said, "Dad, I've got this baby. Can I keep him?" Now I don't know what Pharaoh thought. "Boy, I should take better care of my daughter. She's got a baby and who knows where it came from? I don't want to ask questions. Fine. Keep him. You know, I've got the world to run."

So Pharaoh's daughter kept the child. Of course, she needed a nurse to take care of him since she was probably still a teenager. Looking around, she saw a young girl who'd followed the boat. "Can you help me?" she asked, "I need a nurse." The girl replied, "Oh, I know a lady who'd be like a mother to him." So she went and got Moses' mother, who then raised him in the palace of the king. The *same* king who had put the contract on his life. This is more 007 than you could ever imagine! In the palace of the killer king arises the deliverer. Pharaoh put the contract out on the children, but the one that got away was the one that ended up doing him in.

At that time there was a great deal of occult activity. Remember when Moses returned years later and confronted Pharaoh? Pharaoh's magicians made their rods turn into snakes too. That level of magic didn't just happen overnight. There was a high-level psychic technology developed where people began to manipulate nature by occult forces. And it was into that magic culture that a whole new race of children began to grow up.

The second time a contract was put out on children was under King Herod. His astrologers all knew something really weird was going on. This was when the three wise men saw signs in the sky and entered Jerusalem saying. "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him." (Matt. 2:2) When Herod heard about it he said, "King of the Jews? What do you mean? Where is He so I can go worship Him too." Herod realized there was a baby boy who was going to be King of the Jews. This meant his job would be up for grabs. Another slaughter. This time it was all the male children under two.

Herod had put a contract out on the children, but remember believing parents? In this case Joseph and Mary were warned by an angel to flee. (Matt. 2:13-15) They went to Egypt. Egypt? I mean, good night, Egypt was where they killed all those babies the first time! But Jesus escaped, returned to Galilee, and grew up in Nazareth; again the Deliverer although despised and rejected by men. Again, the One that got away was the One that did them in.

The Greatest Attack Ever

Whenever children are born at a critical time in history, strange, supernatural things seem to go on in that culture. And people in high places know it. When those things take place, it's in the demonic world that Satan puts out the contract on children.

But why?

In the records of the Bible each time a mass destruction of children fell on the world, a KEY LEADER was about to be born. Moses, Jesus, a deliverer was coming, and hell was afraid. As we've seen, the mass murder of children is not a new idea.

The contract is out again. It has come in *our* time, and it has come for *our* children. What does that say to us? What can we learn from this awful slaughter? We must ask ourselves: What is there about *this* generation that makes Satan so afraid? What does he see or sense coming that has triggered such an awful holocaust?

In the times of Moses and the Lord Jesus, that rage missed its marks. The targets of that destruction escaped each time. And the ones that got away did untold damage to hell's domain. There is something precious and important about this generation, so deeply under attack.

It may well be the last generation before Jesus returns.

It may have among its ranks of survivors the makings of a major spiritual miracle.

There may be leaders-to-be rescued from the sword that will lead an entire generation of the abandoned, loveless, and lonely into the promises of God.

I believe that the children being born today are part of a whole prophetic generation God is bringing forth, and that's why the enemy is trying to destroy them in any way he can; both physically and mentally. In the demonic realm the contract has gone out, and the contract on children today is greater than ever before in history. Much, much greater.

Where Have All The Children Gone?

Childhood itself is under attack; not just children, but the whole idea of childhood. If childhood, with all its God-designed qualities, vanishes in society, how do you get a comparison of what you're supposed to be like when you get saved? Remember the words of Jesus, "Unless you are converted and become like little children, you will certainly *not enter* the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 18:3)

What happens to a society when there aren't any little children anymore; when all you have are 50 year olds living inside of nine-year-old bodies?

The answer is simple. You have a society that becomes immune to conversion.

CONTRACT ON CHILDREN – PART 2

“And what do you want to be when you grow up, little girl?”

“Alive.”

Calvin Miller, “The Singer “

The Moloch Factor

There's a fascinating passage in Revelation 12:1-6. Although there are various prophetic interpretations of these verses, the imagery itself is powerful. A woman is giving birth to a child. Nearby a dragon waits to devour the child at birth. This is the spirit of Moloch, a dragon waiting to devour a newborn child. Why doesn't the dragon eat the woman? Because it's the *child* he's after.

Moloch was a heathen god in ancient times. The Ammonites, and later even the Israelites, participated in gruesome orgies in Moloch's honor in which babies were sacrificed. We will meet Moloch again.

“And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in Me, it is better that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were cast into the sea.” (Mark 9:42)

Jesus warned us. The war on children has come to our own generation and you can see it all around you.

From Abortion to DINKs

Abortion is only the beginning. More than 417,000 are performed each year on girls between the ages of 15 and 19, and at least 15,000 girls under the age of 15 have had legal abortions. Since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973, more babies have been killed than in all American wars put together; over twenty million babies have died so far. Abortion is America's most devastating war.

Unfortunately, abortion is just the first wave.

A murder takes place in the United States every 27 minutes. That's 54 murders a day and 20,000 a year - and an alarming, growing number of victims are young teenagers, children, and babies.

Then there's suicide. Each year between a quarter to a half million youth between the age of 14 and 24 will try to kill themselves. This year, an estimated 6,000 will succeed. Forty thousand kids ran to the Reaper between 1970 and 1978, making suicide the third leading killer of the young.

Now even children are committing suicide. In a recent American Psychiatric Convention, Dr. Perihan Rosenthal presented case studies on six suicidal children, each under five years of age!

Another front in the war on children is the attack on families. Without a stable family,

children are robbed of role models; they grow up not knowing their place, nor learning how a mother or a father function. Even more devastating, they fail to understand God the Father's love for His children.

Toffler says in his book, "The Third Wave," that only 7.3 percent of the families in the United States are traditional homes, with a mother taking care of the children and a father supporting them. The other 92.7 percent are growing up not knowing what it is like to be part of a typical family. The family has become an endangered species.

Many no longer consider children to be a blessing. A growing number of young marrieds are deciding not to have children because it will decrease their standard of living. A new name has been coined to describe these people: DINKS. Double Income, No Kids.

"My Mom Did That..."

Even children fortunate enough to be born are often the victims of physical or sexual abuse. Of the one million children who run away from home each year, more than half leave because they've been physically abused or neglected by the parents who were supposed to love and protect them.

"And the King shall say... 'Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least... you have done it unto Me.'" (Matt. 25:40)

I worked in the streets of Detroit and New York with Teen Challenge. I met little children, six and seven years old, roaming the streets at one or two o'clock in the morning. I'd ask them, "Why don't you go home?" Some didn't know where home was. I'd ask, "Where's your father?" Often the answer was, "Which one?" They didn't know their dad, and their mother didn't care.

Dotson Rader, a journalist who was himself once a runaway, interviewed runaway kids across the nation. Here's a typical story:

I sat beside him on the grass. His name was Richard. A small boy, blond, light-eyed, slight, vulnerable... lost and unhappy. He wore cut-off blue jeans and a torn, frayed cowboy shirt. He wore no shoes. He was eleven.

"Why don't you go home?" I asked. "It's getting late." He stared at the grass. "I'm sure your parents miss you. He glanced up, raising his left hand for me to see. His entire body and arms were thin like sticks. Across his left forearm between his wrist and elbow was a deep red gash.

"My mom did that," he said, without emotion. "My mom did that," he repeated, as if I didn't believe him.

"Why?" I asked.

"I don't know," Richard said. "She just doesn't like me."

I asked how it happened.

"She got mad 'cus my room was messy. She started screaming at me and whipping

me like crazy. She s always screaming about something.”

“That’s how your arm got hurt?”

He dropped his arm, and looked down. He didn’t like talking about his mother. I asked him again to tell me.

“Mom held my arm against the door frame and slammed the door shut.”

Richard stood. up. He was about four feet tall. Facing me, he carefully removed his shirt, then turned around to show me his back. There were bruises on his body and on his left shoulder was an ugly burn larger than a man’s hand... just beginning to heal. Richard pulled his shirt back on, wincing.

“It don’t hurt much,” he said.

I wanted to know how he got such a wound. He said he had a fight with his mother when she was cooking dinner. He didn’t know what started it, it was one of those things that happened all the time for no good reason. She’d gone into a rage, grabbed him, lifted him up and shoved his bare back against the hot oven.

“She don’t want me anymore,” he said ruefully.

“Where will you go if you can’t go home anymore?” I asked him.

He sat down again in the grass but didn’t answer for a while. He was thinking hard. At 11 that’s the kind of question that scares a kid. “I’ll run away,” he said. “I’ll run away for good.”

“And then what?” I wanted to know.

“I’ll just run away.”

Another 35 percent of those who run away are victims of sexual abuse, usually incest. Little children shouldn’t have to deal with a father who rapes his own daughter and threatens to kill her if she tells, or a mother who gives her child in payment for house-cleaning.

Rader tells of another runaway...

Huddled in the doorway near Woolworth’s was a slight, hungry girl of 12.

“Wendy’s got no place to live,” said Daniel, 15, “and she’s scared of everybody. She had an abortion two weeks back.” He paused, then added quietly, “She’s not going to make it when the cold weather comes.”

Late that night Rader and Daniel went to a bus depot where Daniel got a small bag of clothes out of the 25-cent locker. Rader rented him a room at his hotel, as he had no other place to go. “What’s gonna happen to me?” he asked. “I can’t get a job, there aren’t any for runaway kids. How am I going to finish school without money and no place to live? The ‘tricks’ already want boys younger than me. You tell me what to do.”

When Rader didn't reply, Daniel mumbled something under his breath. He asked what he said.

"I said, nobody gives a damn about us kids."

All of the runaway programs combined in the United States can only take care of 44,000 children - and most of them for only a night or two. And yet every year 150,000 children disappear without a trace. It is hard enough for adults who have to live on the street, but what do you do if you're only a little kid? There are roughly 300,000 children and adolescents classified as "hard core" homeless street kids. What kind of job would you find? People aren't going to give an eight-year-old a job. Most children are forced into male and female prostitution in order to survive.

Buy A Child Slave for \$500

And if that isn't bad enough, you can also be abducted; stolen from your home and parents. Kidnapped not for ransom but to be sold. There is a slave traffic in this country offering children for sale. Children are purchased for sexual use or for whatever purpose their "owner" desires. In New York City a child costs about \$5,000. In San Diego you can get a child for as little as \$500.

White slave traffic in children has existed for centuries. William and Catherine Booth launched the Salvation Army in England in the nineteenth century. Booth's daughter-in-law uncovered a huge, hideous network where children coming to London to find jobs were tricked and trapped into child prostitution. Captured children were sometimes drugged, nailed alive into coffins, and shipped overseas.

That same trade is active again today in major cities across the world. Children are kidnapped, bought and sold into slavery, for Satanic ritual sacrifice, or for sexual perversion.

The Rene Guyon Society in the United States is named after a notorious child abuser. To become a member you must have intercourse with a child younger than eight years old. Their motto is "Sex before eight or it's too late." It claims 5,000 members. The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) combined with the Rene Guyon Society claim a membership of over 25,000. They are actively seeking legalization of sex between adults and "consenting minors." Unfortunately for them at the moment, there isn't such a thing, legally, as a consenting minor.

Why is all this happening? Because the demonic world hates children. It's not enough to rape a child's body. His mind must be raped too. "Let's get him posing and let's make him into a real little adult. Let's get him involved in pornography." Not just reading it, but *being* pornography.

Child porn in this country is well over a half *billion* dollar industry. And the ones who make money out of it are only a small fraction of those actually involved. The vast majority don't do it for money but for pleasure. The market for this ugliness is so vast that more than 263 different child porn magazines were available in this country in 1977 alone. That's more than 263 monthly pornographic magazines showing sex with children.

You cannot go into an adult bookstore and buy a child porn magazine, it's only available through the mail. Someone gives an address to someone else and he sends off for whatever he wants, magazines, pictures, videos, or films. The average cost to print this sort of sick magazine is only 35 cents, (plus the cost of a child's soul), but the magazines retail anywhere from \$7.50 to \$12.50 a piece. A pornographic video can be produced very cheaply, yet it sells for \$300 to \$400. Child pornography is illegal and it's against the law to send pornography through the mail, but the profits are so huge that the cruel filth continues to spread. Even if authorities find those involved and arrest them, prosecution is difficult. They must first prove that it *is* pornography, and that it was published with "commercial intent."

Despite new, tougher laws, many convictions of child pornography are overturned. How do you prove that something is "unnatural" to an immoral culture? In one case in New York a judge decided that confiscated porn was indeed an "accurate portrayal" of a child involved in those things, and it had some "redeeming social value." He dropped the charges and the pornographers got off Scot-free.

One magazine, *Baby Love*, intercepted by government agents, showed somebody attempting to have sexual intercourse with a six-month-old child. Movies have even been made of people having intercourse with "newly born" babies.

In August 1985 one of the nation's top newspapers, *The Los Angeles Times*, conducted a sophisticated study to determine the number of Americans molested as children. The results...

- A shocking 22 percent of all Americans, 38 million people, were sexually molested as children.
- An estimated 750,000 of the 38 million were daughters abused by their fathers.
- One out of every four American females are sexually abused or raped before the age of 20.
- Approximately two million boys had been sexually abused by adult women.

Now imagine what happens if you're on the receiving end of this. Approximately 40 percent of abused children grow up to abuse their own children. Recent studies show between 62 and 90 percent of prostitutes were sexually abused when they were little. Surveys of drug and alcohol abusers have likewise shown that 70 to 75 percent were abused as children.

Children Committing Crimes

With all this loss of innocence, the gap between childhood and adulthood is rapidly narrowing, and children reacting out of hurt are committing terrifying crimes.

In 1950, notes John Whitehead, only 170 people under the age of 14 were arrested in the United States for committing a serious crime like rape, robbery, or aggravated assault. In that year, the incidence of adult crime was 215 times greater than that of child crime.

By 1960, however, adult crime was only 8 times higher than child crime and by 1979 it was only 5.5 times higher. Did that mean adult crime was decreasing? Not at all. Between 1950 and 1979 adult crime leaped 300 percent. The startling conclusion is that

during this same period of time serious crimes committed by kids jumped *11,000 percent!*

When children do not act like children anymore, the law begins to treat them like adults. United States law may be changed so that minors receive the same kind of sentences as adults, including capital punishment, because they're committing the same crimes.

We are returning to the conditions of the Middle Ages where the distinction between childhood and adulthood was swept away. Children were not only given the same work as adults; they were punished the same, even to the point of being executed.

Yet a protected childhood is a relatively new thing, introduced by Christian reformers. Only a century ago, children in England were made to work in coal mines because they were considered the only ones with bones flexible enough for the horrifying conditions. Imagine the terror of their days in the mine shafts.

Human Flesh Was Cheaper

The simplest job was being a "trapper." A child was lowered 50 feet down a shaft to squat in the mud in total darkness with trickling water, beetles, and rats, waiting to open the trap door for other children pulling coal cars. He would let the coal through and then close the trap door again. That way, if there was a mine explosion, it only killed the children between the doors. The trap doors cut off the exploding gas from spreading further. Little children, seven or eight years old, would sit in the dark every day, sometimes 18 to 20 hours, listening for the coal cars. Some went insane. Yet in the mines, that was the *best* job.

The children suffered terrible cruelty at the hands of adults, who bargained for them, used them, and dismissed them as they pleased. Many working underground were only eight or nine years old, girls as well as boys. Some began toiling in the pits when they were only four or five. They only saw the sun on Sundays. There were no hours of relaxation, their meals were mostly eaten in the dark, and they lived with parents who devoted them to this life.

Think about the actual pulling of the coal cars. Women or small children had to crawl on their hands and knees dragging enormous weights along narrow passageways that were only 18 to 24 inches in height, and were as wet and slimy as common sewers. Women remained at this work until the last hour of pregnancy. Boys and girls performed the work by using a girdle and chain. A girdle was put around their naked waist. A chain from the carriage was hooked to the girdle and passed between their legs. Crawling on hands and knees they drew the carriages after them.

"It is not necessary to describe," says Shaftesbury, the Christian politician who fought against this horror for most of his life, "how their sides were blistered, their ankles stained, their backs chafed from rubbing against the roofs, or how they stumbled in the darkness and choked in the stifling atmosphere. It is enough to say they were obliged to do the work of horses or other beasts of the field, only because human flesh and blood was cheaper in some cases and horse labor was impossible in others."

The result of this barbaric lifestyle was that for many poorer children there was no

childhood in the 1800s. What restored childhood into society? Christian revival. The preaching of the Gospel. And out of these revivals came social reformation. It took the restoration of the Christian emphasis on family, the work of ministries like the Salvation Army in the streets, and men like Shaftesbury in the political arena.

Salvation Army Protects Children

It was a costly, terrible battle. When the Salvation Army uncovered the hideous child slave trade in “moral” Britain, they knew most people would never believe it. General Booth’s son, Bramwell, and his wife, enlisted the help of a Christian editor of one of Britain’s most widely read newspapers, “The Pall Mall Gazette”. The editor, with the help of a woman convert of the Salvation Army who herself was previously involved in the trafficking of children, posed as a child procurer. This editor then purchased a child from her parents for 10 pounds. He documented the entire process, right up to the point where he, the procurer, would have actually had sexual intercourse with the little girl.

They published the story. Bramwell and those involved were viciously counterattacked by the media and by those who were exposed. The Christian editor and the woman who had helped were even jailed. But the exposé hit London like nothing in a hundred years.

The Salvation Army marched into Parliament with a huge roll of paper containing 160,000 signatures. The incident galvanized Parliament into action. Within two months, a protective bill was passed which had previously been defeated three times. The age of consent, which had been lowered to 12, was pushed back up again.

Spiritual awakening and Christian concern gave children back their childhood. Now we’re losing it once more.

The Disappearing Child

Professor Neal Postman of New York University has written, “The Disappearance of Childhood.” He notes the great danger from the so-called children’s rights movement. These child “advocates” claim: “The social category of children is in itself a suppressive idea and everything must be done to free the young from its restrictions.”

When the devil wants to eliminate a freedom, he forges a movement to demand personal rights. The curious thing is, focusing on individual rights ends up in a loss of freedom. Demanding rights rather than concentrating on moral responsibilities always promotes rebellion. In contrast, God targets our personal responsibility and service, which promotes revival and true freedom. Go with some self-centered crusade for personal “rights” and all too often you end up with laws that destroy whatever it was these “rights” were supposed to protect.

Television is also taking away childhood. A book written for adults is almost in a code, as far as a child is concerned. A child can’t understand an adult theme if he doesn’t understand the vocabulary. He may read the words *fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality, genocide, or infanticide*, but he is protected from the ugly ideas behind these terms. But what happens when you bring those ideas into the living room via the TV set and portray them in vivid action and color before a child’s eyes?

There's hardly a seamy side of life unexplored on prime time television. Adult themes are reduced to a child's level because scripts are written to target an eight-year-old mind, which some say is the average intelligence level of the TV audience. The result? Little kids view an evil and dangerous adult world, all broken down for small people's understanding. Eight-year-old boys watching "Putting on the Hits" prance like Prince singing "Love Sexy," and seven-year-old *wannabee girls* sing, "Like A Virgin." Pick up a modern child's reading book, it may deal with divorce, rape, or incest. I don't know what you read when you were a little kid, but this isn't Goldilocks! Childhood is going, not just the children, but the whole idea of childhood.

Death To the Dragon

We live in dark and terrible times, but our poor world has been in darkness and fear before. And into that ugly world once long, long ago, Light and Love and Hope came back in the Person of a Child. "Unto you is born today in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." The Child of this passage is the real threat to the reign and the future of the dragon I mentioned before. And the same dragon that was after the child then is out to destroy the child today.

The Lord Jesus said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:5) He is not often physically in our world, but He, by the Holy Spirit, has come again to speak the word of Life around the world through millions of cleansed lips, and reach out once more through a multitude of holy hands. He has given us a great honor and a great task. "You are the light of the world; a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." (Matt. 5:14)

We are not God, but He is our King and our Friend, and we know how to point the way to His feet. We are not Jesus, but we are the only "Jesus" some hurting people may ever see. He is the head of the Church, we are His body, reborn to express His life and hope to a world filled with darkness and despair.

You can read the end of the story yourself. The woman is saved, the child *is* born, and the Devil finally gets his due. This is no fairy tale but reality. Christ is still on the throne and God is going to have His family yet.

CONTRACT ON CHILDREN – PART 3

Root Of Destruction

Most Christians are only vaguely familiar with the name Moloch. When reading through the Bible, you will sometimes come across a weird verse like, “They caused their children to be passed through the fire to Moloch.” (Jer. 32:35)

Research reveals amazingly little about this false god of the Ammonites. But we do know for certain that the worship practices and the lifestyle of these heathen people was such a hideous abomination to God and such a detestable perversion, that God ordered the Israelites to utterly destroy the Ammonites in the conquest of Canaan. (In fact, anyone who thinks God was merciless in this judgment needs to read on about the cruelty of the Ammonites!)

So, though the god Moloch has kept himself intriguingly hidden, we can learn a great deal about his spirit by looking at the lives of the pagan people who worshipped him. For, “by their fruits you shall know them.” (Matt. 7:20)

In G. K. Chesterton’s book, “The Everlasting Man,” he gives a clear picture of the pagan world before the birth of Christ and leading up to the kind of civilization that Jesus was born into. Briefly, Chesterton describes two kinds of paganism which existed in those days.

Two Faces Of Paganism

The first we might call an “Easter Bunny” kind of paganism. You know, at Easter time, the time when all men should be celebrating the resurrection, the world wants to sing songs about bunnies and bonnets. This is what we call “happy paganism.” It’s not concerned with fact, but with feelings. At its very best, paganism of this variety is an attempt to describe the supernatural through the imagination. Santa Claus, Rudolph, and the Tooth Fairy are more modern examples of this in our own culture.

In the ancient civilizations that Chesterton describes, especially Rome, there were an awful lot of “nice” pagan gods. The Romans had household gods for everything. They had gods of the floor, the door, the roof, and even a god of the drain! For example, there was Bacchus, the god of wine and parties. Now, people didn’t seriously think there was a fat guy up in heaven with grapes. He was more the stuff of imagination.

This sort of paganism can be summed up in the term “mythology.” There was a good deal of nonsense in it, and everyone seems to have understood it was nonsense! It wasn’t important *what* god was worshipped, the act of worship itself was the whole thing. People knew worship itself was somehow important, so they developed an endless variety of rites and superstitions to try to satisfy this urge in their hearts.

Civilized people do this today. But sophisticated, civilized people can also get pulled into the second form of paganism, a far more dangerous devotion than common superstition.

In fact, Chesterton says that simple, “happy paganism” became locked in a struggle with a much darker force. Here is where we encounter the worship and the spirit of Moloch.

Who Is the King Of Tyre

Tyre and Sidon were twin cities that became very powerful and founded a colony, a town the Romans called Carthage, or New Town. We didn't know Carthage's religion until archaeologists uncovered its ruins. The Bible has many references to the area of Tyre and Sidon. Interestingly, the Old Testament refers to a person called the King of Tyre. He seems to be more than human, and some Bible scholars believe this is a reference to Satan himself, for we know that demonic princes and kings have seats of government in key places. (Eph. 6:12)

Now Carthage was a sort of showplace for Tyre and Sidon. It was their hustling, go-getting, mercantile "jewel," because their empire was built on travel and money. And the empire earned *lots* of money because they sold, amongst other things, Tyrian purple, which was unique in all the world and very, very high-priced. Ships from trading nations came from everywhere with money to buy this eye-pleasing shellfish dye. So, people of Carthage could boast, "You can't wash your hands in the sea without the permission of New Town." This was the center of commerce in the time leading up to the birth of Jesus.

On the surface, it might appear that with all the wealth and influence of Carthage, children became a mere inconvenience. But there is far more than that behind the Moloch worship that developed in this "jewel" of the Mediterranean.

How did Carthage adopt the worship of Moloch? We don't know for sure, but historical archeology tells us what happened during the horrible sacrificial rites this god demanded. The hideous idol of Moloch apparently had a man's body with the head of an ox. Its arms and hands extended out in front. In the idol's lap was a fire that heated a metal plate. The priest would take a child, given by its parents, and lay it across the outstretched arms of the idol. The child was bound so it could not wiggle away. Other priests played music and beat drums very loudly while everybody cheered frantically, all to drown out the screams of the terrified child. Then the priest manipulated the arms of the idol until the child was over the plate, which was now white-hot. Then he would release the idol's arms so the child would drop to a horrifying fiery death.

Now, Moloch is one of the oldest names for the ancient deities associated with human sacrifice, nature worship, and fertility. Others were Baal, Asherah, and Ashtoreth. As with Moloch, it is difficult to find too much recorded about them in ancient texts. One reason is censorship. Early archaeologists who came across their sites of worship were shocked and horrified by their discoveries. They found entire cemeteries full of babies that had obviously been sacrificed in some kind of ritual murder. Some archaeologists would not even report the details of sights they found in professional journals. Some even wrote in scholar's Latin because they felt it was so pornographic and so ugly. That is why you so rarely found detailed descriptions of the secret worship of Moloch, Baal, Ashtoreth, and Asherah.

Why Worship What Is Evil?

What we know without question is that the worship of the followers of these deities like Asherah and Ashtoreth focused on sexual reproduction. The "sacred" groves were places where sexual immorality was carried out for the purpose of worship. It was a very attractive sort of religion for people in love with money and power. You went to the groves for sex and

food, you danced in the grass nude, you had an orgy, and you made it religious. Then later you sacrificed your children because, supposedly, these gods of nature had given them to you, and now they wanted them back.

While reading about these rituals, what type of people do you think were taking part? People with bones through their noses? Clubs and animals skins? No. We're talking about a highly advanced civilization, the one that ruled the world at that time. We're not talking about primitive people. We're talking about highly intelligent and well-to-do men and women.

For an equivalent in our day, imagine a group of Silicon Valley executives, high-tech types who own state-of-the-art computers, expensive clothes, and live in condos or high-rises. Imagine them meeting Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (and on special holidays!) to watch a baby being slowly roasted alive.

Here's what one scholar says:

"Night seems to have been the special time for these awful burnings... the whole scene, visible from the walls by the glow of the furnace and the flames, formed such an ideal of transcendent horror, that the name of the valley became *Gehenna*, the usual word for hell."

Yes, that is where the word *Gehenna*, the New Testament word for hell, came from. The place where demon worshippers sacrificed children in fire.

Why in the world would civilized people of any age do that? How could they take their *own* children, (not even an enemy's children), and deliberately murder them for a god?

This is the second type of paganism, a frightful force that still rules today in the lives of people to whom power and possessions mean everything.

The voice behind these terrible acts says this: "You have everything. Now if you want real power you must tap in to the supernatural world." And how do you get the attention of that world?

The answer is simple and deadly. You turn to the demonic, to spirits who will take on any job for you, no matter how dirty. As Chesterton said, you prove to them that you mean business if *they* will do business. And to get to the heart of this dark power, *you must go against nature*, against God's creative life-force, His rapture over an expanding, alive, creation.

Ask a young mother cuddling her newborn why she doesn't simply kill her baby, and she will be shocked and horrified. She'd probably blurt out, "How could you even ask such a thing? It isn't even natural!"

That's the key to understanding today's assault on children. It isn't natural, it is *unnatural*. It is beyond indecent or inhuman. It is *alien*. And that is what Moloch was like, like worshipping something from another world.

To get the attention of this alien spirit you vowed against your own humanity. You said to the waiting darkness: "I mean business, and I'll do the most horrible, unnatural, alien thing

to prove my commitment.” People didn’t sacrifice their children out of ignorance. Actually, it was the opposite. They did it precisely *because* they knew it was unnatural and wrong.

The secret of satanic power was to direct you to go *against nature*, a reversal of all that God made alive and bright and human, all that was beautiful and good and normal. That was the heart of the destructive spirit of Moloch.

And so, likewise, the attack on children and childhood today is alien. And again, it is coming through people for whom money and information and power mean more than life. That is why Satanism, devil worship, and witchcraft are becoming a visible force in our world again today.

When Sin Abounds

You can see it in the news and media everywhere, Moloch rearing its ugly head again in our time. It is not true, of course, that every woman (or man) who chooses to abort a child, or that every adult who abuses one, is overtly seeking Satanic power. But it *is* true that sin against these innocents are crimes against God.

Our families have become the victims of a spirit behind a culture that convinces civilized adults to sacrifice the lives of their children on the altars of convenience, luxury, and personal pleasure. Nature worship is back. Many of the same apparently intelligent people who fight for the lives of baby whales, seal pups, and fledgling bald eagles also demand the right to abort a human child. Who has blinded them to the shocking inconsistency in their thinking?

We are faced with a massive wave of both female and male prostitution, not unlike the temple prostitutes of the ancient deities we’ve named. And today whole industries take in billions of dollars on the systematic murder, torture, and perversion of our children. Now satanic and gothic metal music encourages kids to destroy the Church, “Worship The Beast,” and glorify the devil; even to kill themselves or someone else. It has all come to a head with Satanic practices for power even in junior high and high schools. And once again, like long, long ago, the ritual murder of babies, children, and teenagers.

What does all this say? Simply this: The ancient deities never died, they simply moved underground. And they have emerged again in our time.

Is it serious? Yes. The devil has no sense of humor. He hates God and he hates His creation. It is a real battle, and people really die in it. Is it new? Hardly. It has happened as we have seen in Biblical times. It happened briefly and less obviously in the 60s and 70s with Charles Manson, “Rosemary’s Baby,” with the Stones’ “Sympathy For The Devil,” and Arthur Brown’s “God of Hellfire.”

But every demonic outpouring was answered by an awesome wave of the Holy Spirit that resulted in hundreds of thousands of conversions and a fresh wave of life in the world. Then is this last onslaught significant? Yes, but in an unusual way.

What is this recent explosion of renewed occultic practice and all-out warfare on childhood? Nothing but a revelation of the true, ugly nature of the demonic world. As Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy.” (Jn. 10:10) Satan’s best work is

done in secret, (Jn. 3:19), but everything now has come into the light! What we are witnessing is deep darkness uncovered, the heart of hell revealed. And there is one important thing to understand about what we see.

Hell Is In Trouble

No one lays all their cards out on the table unless it is the end of the game. No country, no nation, no kingdom brings its ultimate weapons into service unless its back is against the wall. This frontal assault is not a sign of demonic power, but demonic *desperation*. It is not a sign of Satanic strength, but growing weakness.

Hell is in trouble. It is bringing out all its last weapons because it knows something that many in the Church have not yet realized. The devil knows he only has a short time left. He's had to let the lid off his operation and it has happened in our time. The occult explosion and the war on children is a sign of the coming triumph of Christ.

"In the last days," God said, "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh." (Joel 2:28) We have seen the targeting of children and childhood. We have seen that the Dragon seeks to destroy the Child. But now we need to see our times through God's eyes. He is the Sovereign Lord; the "times are in His hands." (Ps. 31:15)

It is as if God looked down through history to the kind of world our time has become. He saw not only the destruction of children, but the rejection of the old, the war against women and the young, and the attack on the family. And He has not left us alone and desolate. "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him." (Is. 59:19 KJV)

"The promise is to you," says Scripture, "and to your children, and to all that are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 2:39) God's answer to a lost and broken generation is redemption; the renewal of love, purity, and trust in individuals, and a rebirth of the family where reborn parents and children begin to love each other. God's answer to the kingdom of darkness and hell is His revived Church, which always ushers in the Kingdom of God. He will bring about the restoration and redemption of the decayed and demonically-infested structures of our society, through His Church, by evangelism, spiritual warfare, and reformation.

There is a wind of supernatural change in the air, and in the darkness a great Light is dawning.

A Last Days Promise

It is as if God said of our time: "If no one will look after the children, then I will. I will be a Father to them and they will be My sons and My daughters." (See 2 Cor. 6:17-18) "If no one will care for those that cannot defend themselves, I will be for them a shield and a defense, the hope of the hopeless and a Father to the fatherless." (Ps. 33:18-20; 84:11; 68:5; 27:10) "In the last days I will pour out my Spirit of adoption on your sons and your daughters, the handmaids and the servants, your old men and your young men; and I will show the world what a real family looks like." (Rom. 8:15-16; Joel 2:28-29)

God has not lost hold of His poor world. Because of Jesus, one day it will be beautiful

again, a world safe for children. “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots; and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord... with righteousness shall He judge the poor and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth... The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them... They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” (Is. 11:1-10)

Root Of Destruction

Most Christians are only vaguely familiar with the name Moloch. When reading through the Bible, you will sometimes come across a weird verse like, “They caused their children to be passed through the fire to Moloch.” (Jer. 32:35)

Research reveals amazingly little about this false god of the Ammonites. But we do know for certain that the worship practices and the lifestyle of these heathen people was such a hideous abomination to God and such a detestable perversion, that God ordered the Israelites to utterly destroy the Ammonites in the conquest of Canaan. (In fact, anyone who thinks God was merciless in this judgment needs to read on about the cruelty of the Ammonites!)

So, though the god Moloch has kept himself intriguingly hidden, we can learn a great deal about his spirit by looking at the lives of the pagan people who worshipped him. For, “by their fruits you shall know them.” (Matt. 7:20)

In G. K. Chesterton’s book, “The Everlasting Man,” he gives a clear picture of the pagan world before the birth of Christ and leading up to the kind of civilization that Jesus was born into. Briefly, Chesterton describes two kinds of paganism which existed in those days.

Two Faces Of Paganism

The first we might call an “Easter Bunny” kind of paganism. You know, at Easter time, the time when all men should be celebrating the resurrection, the world wants to sing songs about bunnies and bonnets. This is what we call “happy paganism.” It’s not concerned with fact, but with feelings. At its very best, paganism of this variety is an attempt to describe the supernatural through the imagination. Santa Claus, Rudolph, and the Tooth Fairy are more modern examples of this in our own culture.

In the ancient civilizations that Chesterton describes, especially Rome, there were an awful lot of “nice” pagan gods. The Romans had household gods for everything. They had gods of the floor, the door, the roof, and even a god of the drain! For example, there was Bacchus, the god of wine and parties. Now, people didn’t seriously think there was a fat guy up in heaven with grapes. He was more the stuff of imagination.

This sort of paganism can be summed up in the term “mythology.” There was a good deal of nonsense in it, and everyone seems to have understood it was nonsense! It wasn’t important *what* god was worshipped, the act of worship itself was the whole thing. People knew worship itself was somehow important, so they developed an endless variety of rites and superstitions to try to satisfy this urge in their hearts.

Civilized people do this today. But sophisticated, civilized people can also get pulled into the second form of paganism, a far more dangerous devotion than common superstition.

In fact, Chesterton says that simple, “happy paganism” became locked in a struggle with a much darker force. Here is where we encounter the worship and the spirit of Moloch.

Who Is the King Of Tyre

Tyre and Sidon were twin cities that became very powerful and founded a colony, a town the Romans called Carthage, or New Town. We didn't know Carthage's religion until archaeologists uncovered its ruins. The Bible has many references to the area of Tyre and Sidon. Interestingly, the Old Testament refers to a person called the King of Tyre. He seems to be more than human, and some Bible scholars believe this is a reference to Satan himself, for we know that demonic princes and kings have seats of government in key places. (Eph. 6:12)

Now Carthage was a sort of showplace for Tyre and Sidon. It was their hustling, go-getting, mercantile “jewel,” because their empire was built on travel and money. And the empire earned *lots* of money because they sold, amongst other things, Tyrian purple, which was unique in all the world and very, very high-priced. Ships from trading nations came from everywhere with money to buy this eye-pleasing shellfish dye. So, people of Carthage could boast, “You can't wash your hands in the sea without the permission of New Town.” This was the center of commerce in the time leading up to the birth of Jesus.

On the surface, it might appear that with all the wealth and influence of Carthage, children became a mere inconvenience. But there is far more than that behind the Moloch worship that developed in this “jewel” of the Mediterranean.

How did Carthage adopt the worship of Moloch? We don't know for sure, but historical archeology tells us what happened during the horrible sacrificial rites this god demanded. The hideous idol of Moloch apparently had a man's body with the head of an ox. Its arms and hands extended out in front. In the idol's lap was a fire that heated a metal plate. The priest would take a child, given by its parents, and lay it across the outstretched arms of the idol. The child was bound so it could not wiggle away. Other priests played music and beat drums very loudly while everybody cheered frantically, all to drown out the screams of the terrified child. Then the priest manipulated the arms of the idol until the child was over the plate, which was now white-hot. Then he would release the idol's arms so the child would drop to a horrifying fiery death.

Now, Moloch is one of the oldest names for the ancient deities associated with human sacrifice, nature worship, and fertility. Others were Baal, Asherali, and Ashtoreth. As with Moloch, it is difficult to find too much recorded about them in ancient texts. One reason is censorship. Early archaeologists who came across their sites of worship were shocked and horrified by their discoveries. They found entire cemeteries full of babies that had obviously been sacrificed in some kind of ritual murder. Some archaeologists would not even report the details of sights they found in professional journals. Some even wrote in scholar's Latin because they felt it was so pornographic and so ugly. That is why you so rarely found detailed descriptions of the secret worship of Moloch, Baal, Ashtoreth, and Asherah.

Why Worship What Is Evil?

What we know without question is that the worship of the followers of these deities like Asherah and Ashtoreth focused on sexual reproduction. The “sacred” groves were places where sexual immorality was carried out for the purpose of worship. It was a very attractive sort of religion for people in love with money and power. You went to the groves for sex and food, you danced in the grass nude, you had an orgy, and you made it religious. Then later you sacrificed your children because, supposedly, these gods of nature had given them to you, and now they wanted them back.

While reading about these rituals, what type of people do you think were taking part? People with bones through their noses? Clubs and animals skins? No. We’re talking about a highly advanced civilization, the one that ruled the world at that time. We’re not talking about primitive people. We’re talking about highly intelligent and well-to-do men and women.

For an equivalent in our day, imagine a group of Silicon Valley executives, high-tech types who own state-of-the-art computers, expensive clothes, and live in condos or high-rises. Imagine them meeting Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (and on special holidays!) to watch a baby being slowly roasted alive.

Here’s what one scholar says:

“Night seems to have been the special time for these awful burnings... the whole scene, visible from the walls by the glow of the furnace and the flames, formed such an ideal of transcendent horror, that the name of the valley became *Gehenna*, the usual word for hell.”

Yes, that is where the word *Gehenna*, the New Testament word for hell, came from. The place where demon worshippers sacrificed children in fire.

Why in the world would civilized people of any age do that? How could they take their *own* children, (not even an enemy’s children), and deliberately murder them for a god?

This is the second type of paganism, a frightful force that still rules today in the lives of people to whom power and possessions mean everything.

The voice behind these terrible acts says this: “You have everything. Now if you want real power you must tap in to the supernatural world.” And how do you get the attention of that world?

The answer is simple and deadly. You turn to the demonic, to spirits who will take on any job for you, no matter how dirty. As Chesterton said, you prove to them that you mean business if *they* will do business. And to get to the heart of this dark power, *you must go against nature*, against God’s creative life-force, His rapture over an expanding, alive, creation.

Ask a young mother cuddling her newborn why she doesn’t simply kill her baby, and she will be shocked and horrified. She’d probably blurt out, “How could you even ask such a thing? It isn’t even natural!”

That's the key to understanding today's assault on children. It isn't natural, it is *unnatural*. It is beyond indecent or inhuman. It is *alien*. And that is what Moloch was like, like worshipping something from another world.

To get the attention of this alien spirit you vowed against your own humanity. You said to the waiting darkness: "I mean business, and I'll do the most horrible, unnatural, alien thing to prove my commitment." People didn't sacrifice their children out of ignorance. Actually, it was the opposite. They did it precisely *because* they knew it was unnatural and wrong.

The secret of satanic power was to direct you to go *against nature*, a reversal of all that God made alive and bright and human, all that was beautiful and good and normal. That was the heart of the destructive spirit of Moloch.

And so, likewise, the attack on children and childhood today is alien. And again, it is coming through people for whom money and information and power mean more than life. That is why Satanism, devil worship, and witchcraft are becoming a visible force in our world again today.

When Sin Abounds

You can see it in the news and media everywhere, Moloch rearing its ugly head again in our time. It is not true, of course, that every woman (or man) who chooses to abort a child, or that every adult who abuses one, is overtly seeking Satanic power. But it *is* true that sin against these innocents are crimes against God.

Our families have become the victims of a spirit behind a culture that convinces civilized adults to sacrifice the lives of their children on the altars of convenience, luxury, and personal pleasure. Nature worship is back. Many of the same apparently intelligent people who fight for the lives of baby whales, seal pups, and fledgling bald eagles also demand the right to abort a human child. Who has blinded them to the shocking inconsistency in their thinking?

We are faced with a massive wave of both female and male prostitution, not unlike the temple prostitutes of the ancient deities we've named. And today whole industries take in billions of dollars on the systematic murder, torture, and perversion of our children. Now satanic and gothic metal music encourages kids to destroy the Church, "Worship The Beast," and glorify the devil; even to kill themselves or someone else. It has all come to a head with Satanic practices for power even in junior high and high schools. And once again, like long, long ago, the ritual murder of babies, children, and teenagers.

What does all this say? Simply this: The ancient deities never died, they simply moved underground. And they have emerged again in our time.

Is it serious? Yes. The devil has no sense of humor. He hates God and he hates His creation. It is a real battle, and people really die in it. Is it new? Hardly. It has happened as we have seen in Biblical times. It happened briefly and less obviously in the 60s and 70s with Charles Manson, "Rosemary's Baby," with the Stones' "Sympathy For The Devil," and Arthur Brown's "God of Hellfire."

But every demonic outpouring was answered by an awesome wave of the Holy Spirit that

resulted in hundreds of thousands of conversions and a fresh wave of life in the world. Then is this last onslaught significant? Yes, but in an unusual way.

What is this recent explosion of renewed occultic practice and all-out warfare on childhood? Nothing but a revelation of the true, ugly nature of the demonic world. As Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy." (Jn. 10:10) Satan's best work is done in secret, (Jn. 3:19), but everything now has come into the light! What we are witnessing is deep darkness uncovered, the heart of hell revealed. And there is one important thing to understand about what we see.

Hell Is In Trouble

No one lays all their cards out on the table unless it is the end of the game. No country, no nation, no kingdom brings its ultimate weapons into service unless its back is against the wall. This frontal assault is not a sign of demonic power, but demonic *desperation*. It is not a sign of Satanic strength, but growing weakness.

Hell is in trouble. It is bringing out all its last weapons because it knows something that many in the Church have not yet realized. The devil knows he only has a short time left. He's had to let the lid off his operation and it has happened in our time. The occult explosion and the war on children is a sign of the coming triumph of Christ.

"In the last days," God said, "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh." (Joel 2:28) We have seen the targeting of children and childhood. We have seen that the Dragon seeks to destroy the Child. But now we need to see our times through God's eyes. He is the Sovereign Lord; the "times are in His hands." (Ps. 31:15)

It is as if God looked down through history to the kind of world our time has become. He saw not only the destruction of children, but the rejection of the old, the war against women and the young, and the attack on the family. And He has not left us alone and desolate. "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him." (Is. 59:19 KJV)

"The promise is to you," says Scripture, "and to your children, and to all that are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 2:39) God's answer to a lost and broken generation is redemption; the renewal of love, purity, and trust in individuals, and a rebirth of the family where reborn parents and children begin to love each other. God's answer to the kingdom of darkness and hell is His revived Church, which always ushers in the Kingdom of God. He will bring about the restoration and redemption of the decayed and demonically-infested structures of our society, through His Church, by evangelism, spiritual warfare, and reformation.

There is a wind of supernatural change in the air, and in the darkness a great Light is dawning.

A Last Days Promise

It is as if God said of our time: "If no one will look after the children, then I will. I will be a Father to them and they will be My sons and My daughters." (See 2 Cor. 6:17-18) "If no one will care for those that cannot defend themselves, I will be for them a shield and a defense,

the hope of the hopeless and a Father to the fatherless.” (Ps. 33:18-20; 84:11; 68:5; 27:10)
“In the last days I will pour out my Spirit of adoption on your sons and your daughters, the handmaids and the servants, your old men and your young men; and I will show the world what a real family looks like.” (Rom. 8:15-16; Joel 2:28-29)

God has not lost hold of His poor world. Because of Jesus, one day it will be beautiful again, a world safe for children. “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots; and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord... with righteousness shall He judge the poor and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth... The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them... They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” (Is. 11:1-10)

Copyright © 1998 Winkie Pratney