

The Blood of Innocents

When a society reaches the point where it has no reservations about destroying the lives of its most innocent citizens, it has forfeited the right to exist.

“They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood. . . . Therefore the wrath of the Lord was kindled against His people” (Psa. 106:37-38, 40).



When the Israelites came into Canaan, they were surrounded by a population whose moral standards were in the gutter. One practice that drew God’s wrath was “they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods” (Deut. 12:31). The Canaanites’ culture of death was not their only sin, but it represented a pathological disdain for everything right and good. Consequently, the land “vomited out its inhabitants” (Lev. 18:25). God would not allow this to continue.

Inexplicably, the Israelites became infatuated with the customs of the natives and adopted the practice of child sacrifice (2 Chron. 28:3; Jer. 32:35; Eze. 16:20-21). This “shedding of innocent blood” (Psa. 106:37) was one of the more outrageous sins in a range of social evils that angered God. When a nation has no problem slaughtering its own children—the most innocent of all humans—there is something seriously twisted in their thinking. In time, Israel paid a terrible price for their sick ideology.

But sick ideologies never die; they just come back in different forms. Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, over sixty million babies have been killed in our nation by legalized abortion. These are humans who have been sacrificed to the false god of selfishness.

The controversy over abortion once centered on whether a fetus is a human being. Recent advances in genetics and obstetrical medicine have laid that controversy to rest. From a scientific standpoint, there can be no doubt that the child in the womb is a separate human being, with its own unique DNA and personality. It is a living soul, with all the rights and dignity of any other person. Abortion is the deliberate taking of human life.

Likewise, defining abortion as a “women’s rights” issue is a semantic trick that dodges the truth of the act. Early advocates of women’s rights condemned abortion as “child murder” (Susan B. Anthony). Many feminists today continue to reject abortion as an attack on women’s wellbeing (see feministsforlife.org).

The push for abortion-on-demand in our society is driven by something more sinister than the right of a woman to choose. It is no coincidence that the demand for abortion rights grew in tandem with the sexual revolution of the 1960s. Both movements have been accompanied, too, by a rise in mental illness, violence, family dysfunction, suicide—and declining faith in God. *This is a spiritual disease*, a disease with a host of social symptoms. So, when politicians cheer the legalization of infanticide, we should not be surprised. We are witnessing the collapse of faith and reason.

In the early Roman Empire, parents who, for whatever reason, did not want to keep their newborn babies would simply toss them in the garbage dump, and nobody cared. But Christianity changed that. The early Christians rescued these little ones and adopted them as their own. They did this because they believed in the dignity of every human being. They promoted a culture of life, love, and compassion that extended to “the least of these.” Over time, that culture slowly changed the thinking of the broader population, and abandoning newborns—even abortion itself—became socially unacceptable.

That culture of life is now being dismantled. In ages to come, when historians tell the story of our nation’s fall, our eagerness to spill the blood of innocents will be part of that story. God help us.

— David King