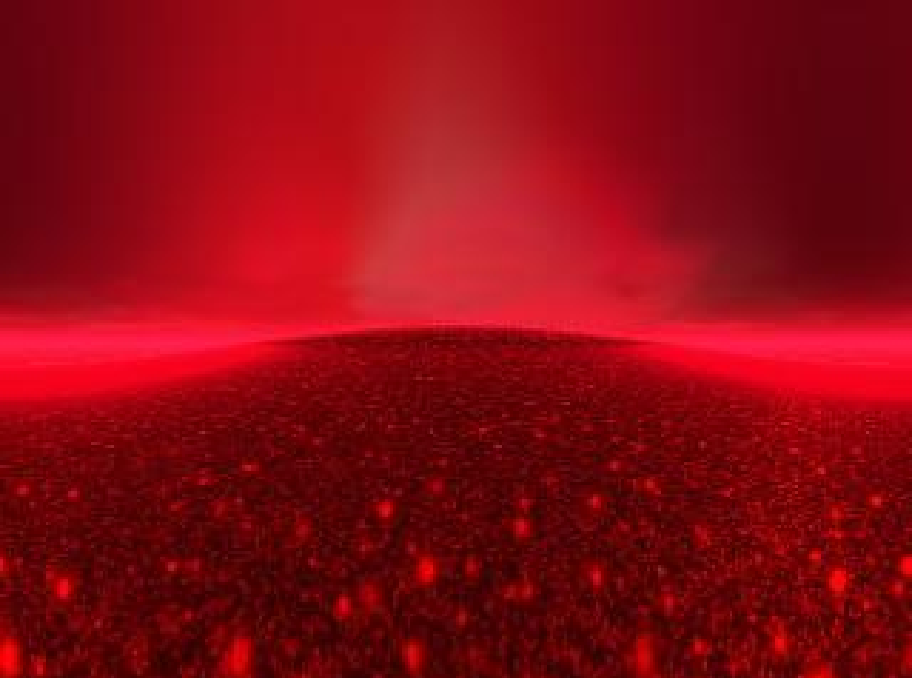
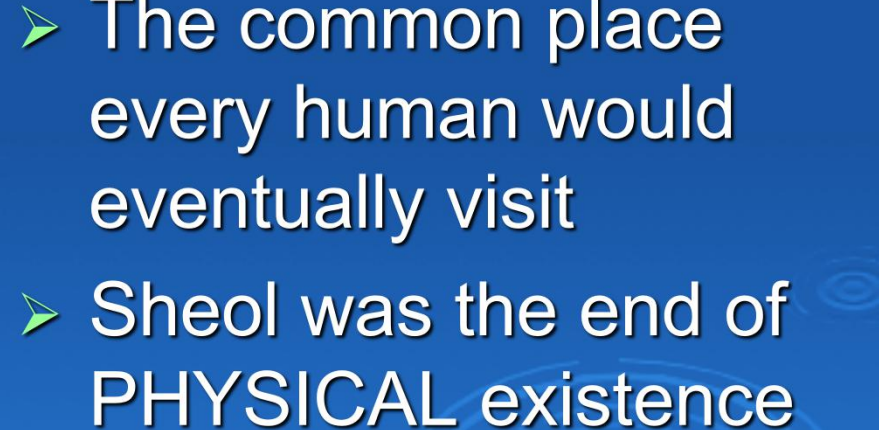




DEATH AND AFTERLIFE

- **Sheol** was generally considered “the grave”
 - **Sheol** was NOT Hades or Hell
 - The common place every human would eventually visit
 - Sheol was the end of **PHYSICAL** existence
- 
- 

DEATH WAS A NEGATIVE

- Ancestor worship played a key role in early Israelite death cult
- Not Egyptian theology
- Very vague “life after death” concepts
- Living a long life a blessing, dying early was being “cut-off”
- SHADES is Biblical term for whatever form of existence (if any) after death
- To “sleep with your Ancestors” meant a peaceful state

Shades of Sheol

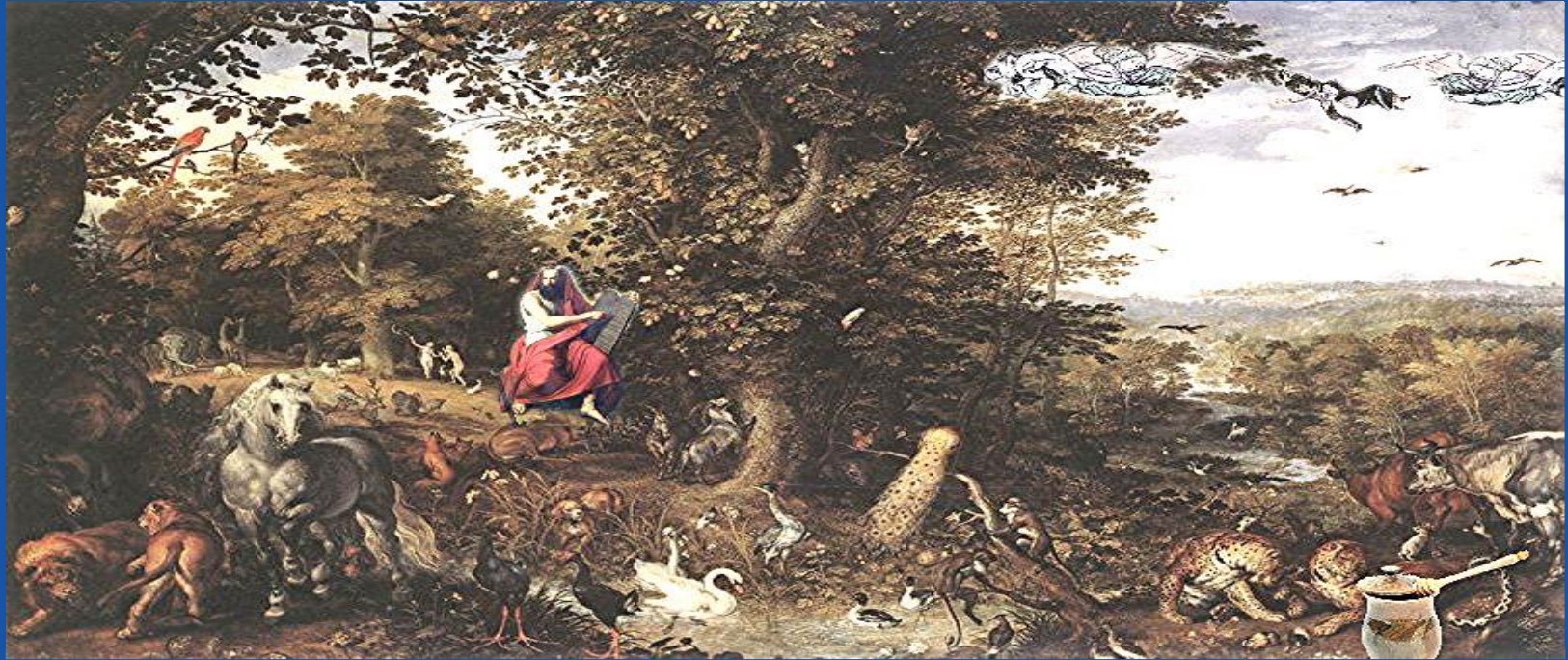


DEATH IN JESUS' TIME



- Concept of a “*place of the dead*” had developed
- RESURRECTION was the hot topic of His day
- Sadducees said NO
- Pharisees said YES
- **HEBREW CONCEPT OF RESURRECTION IS NOT HOW WE THINK OF IT!!**
- NOT a spiritual concept of going to Heaven and living with God

JEWISH “HEAVEN”: OLAM HABBAAH



- **Olam Habbah** means ***“the world to come”***
- Similar to Christian view of the Millennial Kingdom
- A permanent Golden Age of Israel
- The whole world following Torah
- In essence, the whole world converts to Judaism

IDEA OF MAN'S SPIRIT LIVING WITH GOD WAS BLASPHEMY

- Man at his best considered too sinful to live with God in Heaven
- **BOTTOM LINE:**
 - 1) No contacting the dead
 - 2) Death is unclean
 - 3) Spirits of the dead live somewhere
 - 4) Demons pretend to be spirits of dead people to deceive



DO NOT WRONG A *GER*



- Respect the elderly
- *Ger* = foreigner
- **MUST** treat foreigners fairly
- A **PHYSICAL** precursor of the time when Jesus would invite “foreigners” (gentiles) to join Israel
- Join Israel in a **SPIRITUAL SENSE** *not* a physical sense

CHAPTER 20: HOLINESS OF THE CONGREGATION

- Chapters 18 & 19, said:
*“Don’t do this, **INSTEAD** do that”*
- Chapter 20 says: *“**IF** you do that, **THEN** this is what will happen to you”*
- Most serious trespasses are addressed **FIRST**
- By today’s vocabulary, these are **ALL** felonies





- EXACTLY WHO ARE THESE LAWS ADDRESSED TO?
- ANYONE from among the Israelites includes:
 - 1) Natural born Hebrew
 - 2) Foreigner who joined Israel
 - 3) *Ger* = A stranger who is a person who has **NOT** joined Israel

THESE LAWS ALSO APPLIED TO GENTILES!

NO IDOLATRY!

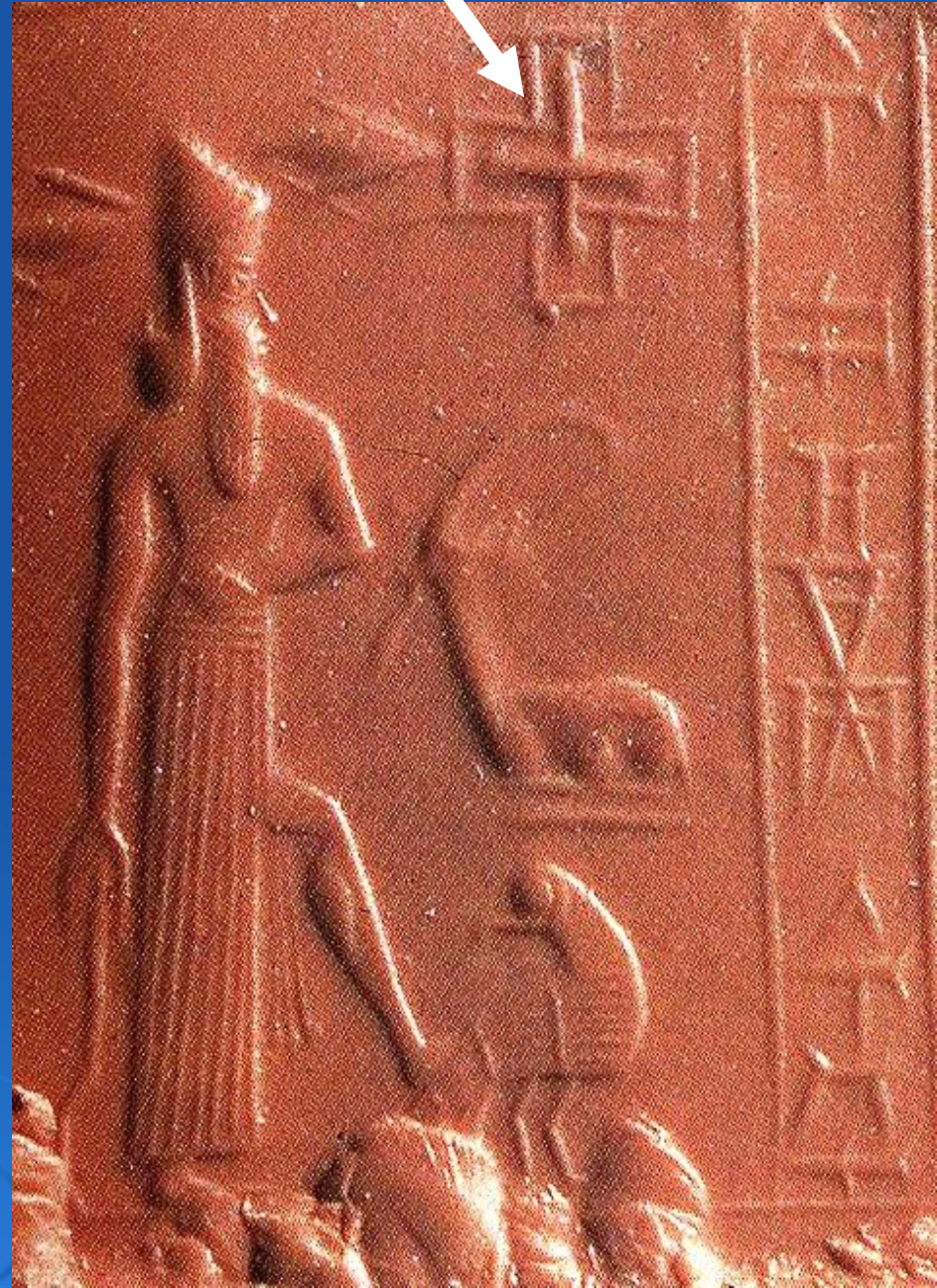
- SPECIFICALLY NO MOLECH WORSHIP!
- Practiced by the Canaanites
- Chief attribute of Molech was child sacrifice
- Molech went by different names
- Goddess Ashteroth was also Ishtar, Astarte, Eostre, Easter



MOLECH A CHIEF-GOD

Notice the TAU (cross)

- Gods put into a hierarchy
- EL means “highest god”
- El-ohim, El-Shaddai
- IL is Akkadian “highest or chief-god”
- **“lord of lords”, “king of kings”, “god above all gods”** a holdover
- Molech also known as Chemosh, Ba’al, Marduk, Ba’al-Peor, Ba’al-Zebub, Mars, Saturn, Moloch



*DER GÖTZE MOLECH.
Wie Thiere die Kinder zum Opfer in seine
glühende Arme gegeben.*



CHILDREN

handed over, offered-up

- This is not about baby dedications!
- This is about giving a child as a sacrifice, to be killed
- Usually the purpose was as a burnt offering
- Often the child was killed and buried in the foundation of a new building to obtain a blessing
- Sadly, Israel constantly bowed down to Molech



4 HORNED ALTAR


1Kings 11: 1 – 8

King Solomon built altars to other gods including MOLECH!

Bible says he did this in “love”

Solomon worshipped Yehoveh, but ALSO other gods

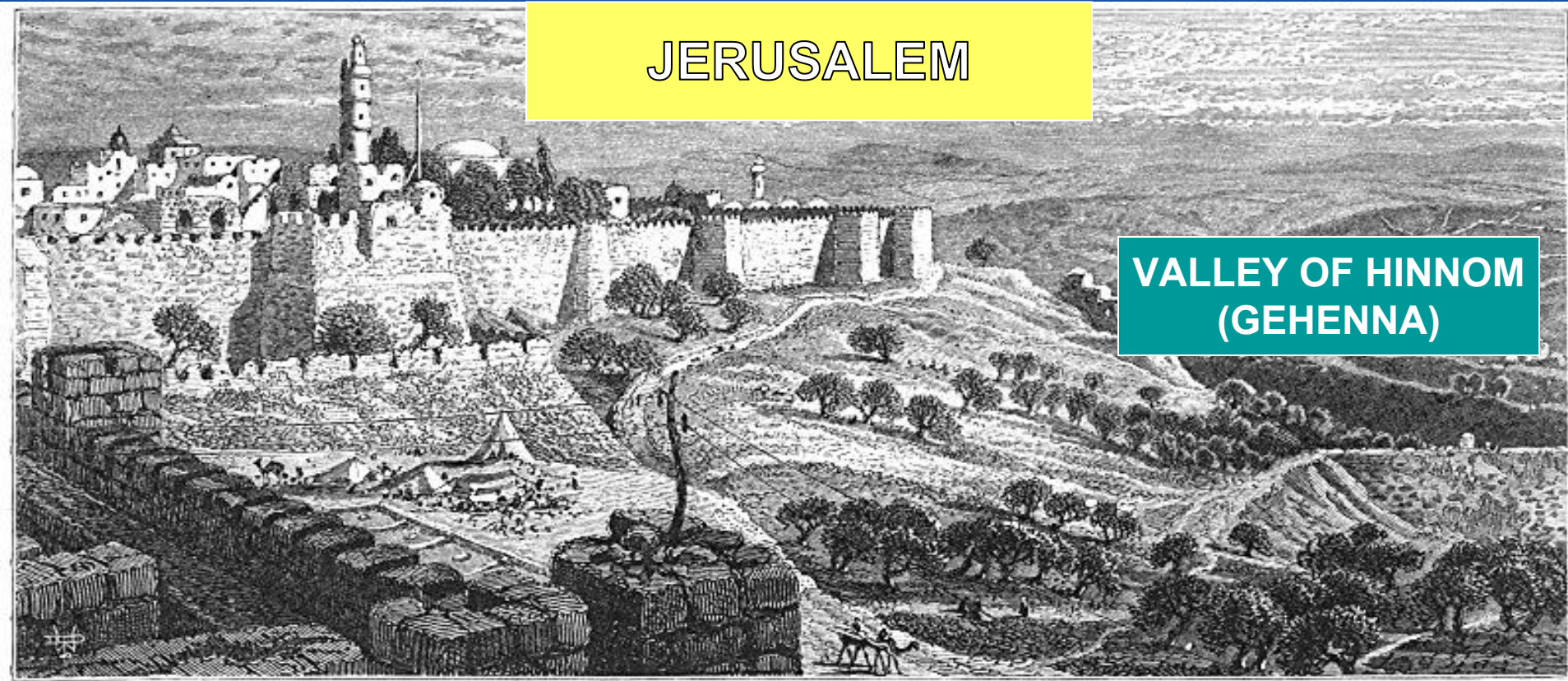
King Solomon was fooling himself; as we often do, he thought “the law of love” overrode God’s Torah. BIG MISTAKE!



Assyrian-style altar

JERUSALEM

VALLEY OF HINNOM (GEHENNA)

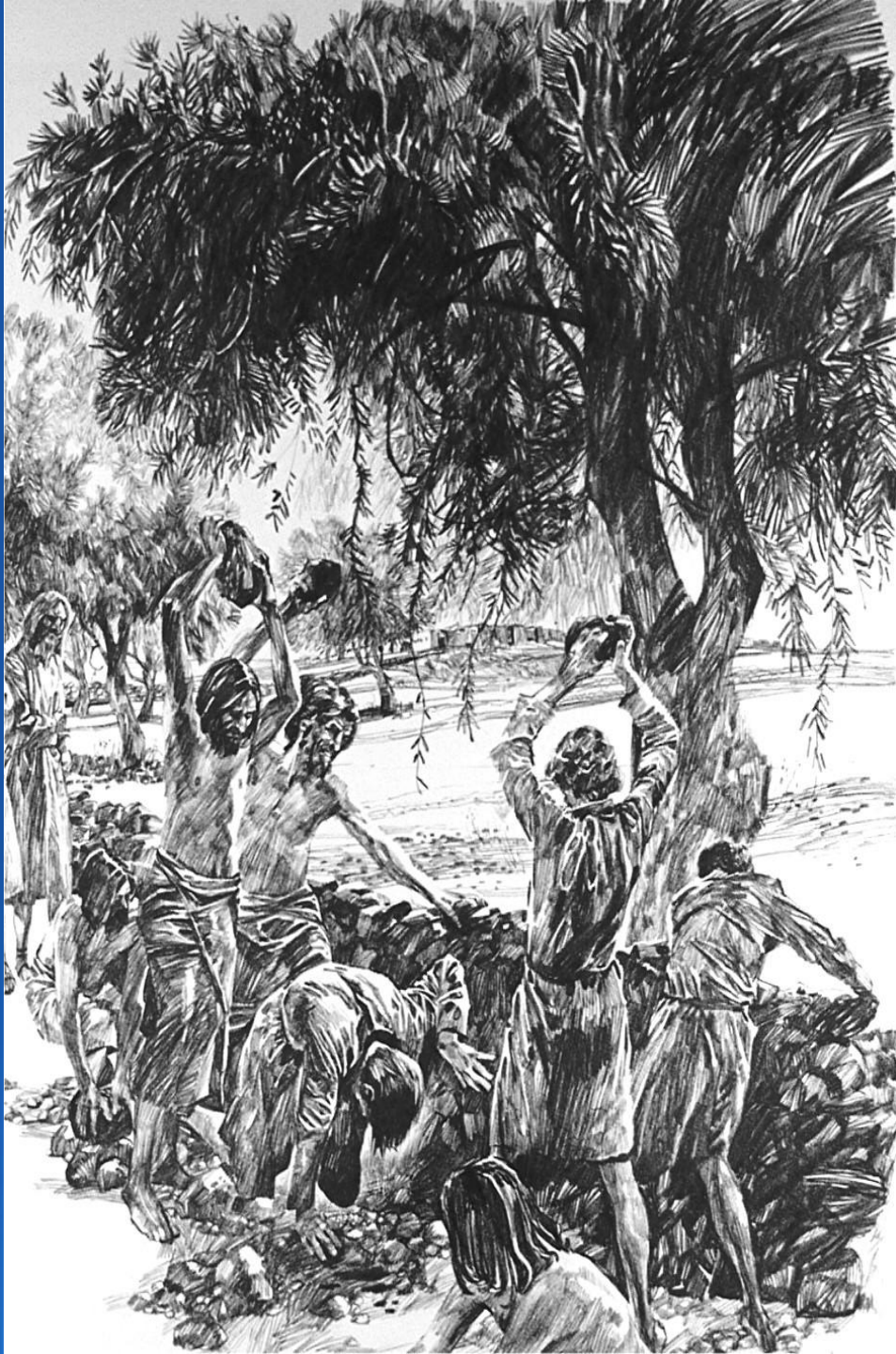


- Kings Manessah and Ammon of Judah instituted Molech worship, under pain of death to those who disobeyed
- A pagan altar was used during the time of Jesus in the Valley of Hinnom, for child sacrifice

MOLECH WAS NOT REAL!

- Molech was man's evil inclination led by Satan
- Child sacrifice hopes to bring prosperity and well-being
- Abortion is EXACTLY the essence of Molech worship
- God's penalty for this is death





MOLECH WORSHIPPERS TO BE STONED

- The executioners are to be the *“am ha’arets”*

The people of the land

- Low level leaders
- NOT vigilante justice
- Communal participation
- It is supposed to be bloody and brutal

KARET: CUT-OFF

- Death can be two-fold: physical and spiritual
- If the people will not punish a Molech worshipper, God will “cut-off” that person
- ***Cut-off can mean:*** dying young, excommunication from Israel, a consequence to a later generation, execution by civil authority, death at the direct hand of God
- Vs. 3: ***“ I will set My face against.....”***
- Means an intent to punish
- Usually means physical AND spiritual death
- **WHY IS THE JUDGMENT SO TERRIBLE?**
 - a) commission of idolatry
 - b) no respect for life