When People Sacrifice Their Children

"And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin." Jeremiah 32:35

The Old Testament writers tell us that Israel, during times of deep stress, offered their own children in sacrifice to pagan gods. For example, we read: "Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood."[1] How can a civilized people do such things?

When people are convinced that their perception of the way things ought to be is correct, and what they want is important, they tend to do anything within their power to accomplish it. Failure to get their own way in substantive issues produces intense stress, causing them to do what rational people consider foolish, if not insane. Those who do not believe that God is in control and has their best interest at heart, do irrational things.

In Israel's history, when they couldn't persuade God to do what they wanted, they forsook God for pagan gods. When they couldn't get their pagan gods to do their bidding, they offered their children in sacrifice, hoping that the intensity of their desire would persuade the gods to relent. Today, people sacrifice their families to the marketplace, believing that they should be able to define how they live, and are able to make their dreams come true by the force of their own effort.

The solution, of course, is surrender to the God of Providence. Do you believe that He is sovereign and that what He wants for your life is better than what you want for your own life? If this does not become a core conviction in the fiber of your being, you will end up doing the unthinkable during times of severe hardship.

[1] Psalm 106:37-38