



[Ezekiel 20:23-26](#)

(23) I also lifted up My hand to them in the wilderness, *swearing* that I would scatter them among the heathen and scatter them throughout the lands, (24) Because they had not done My ordinances, but had despised My statutes and had polluted My Sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols. (25) Wherefore I also gave them over to *their own* statutes that were not good, and *their own* ordinances by which they could not live. (26) And I defiled them in their own gifts, in that they caused all that opened the womb to pass through *the fire*, that I *might* make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I *am* the LORD." '

A Faithful Version

Notice the emphasis on the personal pronoun "My." The source of the law or the values we submit to is the sovereign. This aids us greatly in determining whether [idolatry](#) is present and how our conscience will respond.

[God](#) forcefully contrasts His laws with pagan commands and practices. He clearly implies that those who submit to pagan commands are guilty of putting another god before the true God. The Israelites—insincerity and a clear conscience, perhaps even fervently—brutally sacrificed their sweet and innocent firstborn in the fires to Molech, and all the while they were guilty of a horrible, vicious idolatry!

Today, we may not throw babies onto Molech's altar, but we abort 4,200 pregnancies a day, ending the lives of these potential members of God's Family in the name of free choice and self-concern. The law of the land permits this atrocity! If that is not idolatry, what is? What kind of morality, what religion, permits men to enact such heinous laws? People have become blinded by focusing on their own pleasure, failing to see even that [murder](#) is involved, let alone the idolatry. [God's law](#) nowhere permits such a depraved activity.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Ezekiel 20:23-26 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

To learn more, see:

[The First Commandment \(1997\)](#)

Related Topics:

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