



## [Ezekiel 20:23-26](#)

(23) Also with uplifted hand I swore to them in the desert that I would disperse them among the nations and scatter them through the countries, (24) because they had not obeyed my laws but had rejected my decrees and desecrated my Sabbaths, and their eyes lusted after their fathers' idols. (25) I also gave them over to statutes that were not good and laws they could not live by; (26) I let them become defiled through their gifts—thesacrifice of every firstborn —thatI might fill them with horror so they would know that I am the LORD.'

*New International 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—brutallysacrificed 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

**To learn more, see:**

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

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

### **Related Topics:**

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