

Biblical Notes – Jeremiah 7:31; 32:35

7:31 – They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind.

אוֹכְנָנוּ בְּמֹתָה הַתְּפִתְחָה אֲשֶׁר בְּגִיאָ בּוֹהַנְם לְשֹׁרֶף אֶת־בְּנֵיכֶם וְאֶת־בְּנָתֶיכֶם בְּאַשְׁר לֹא צִוִּיתִי וְלֹא עָלַתָּה עַל־לִבִּי:

“...neither came it into my heart; it was not so much as thought of by him, still less desired, and much less commanded by him. Jarchi's note is, "though I spoke to Abraham to slay his son, it did not enter into my heart that he should slay him, but to make known his righteousness.””

— John Gill, John Gill's Exposition of the Whole Bible, Commentary on Jeremiah 7:31.

“Neither came it into my heart; which was always so far from my approving, that I never let it come into my thought or debate, whether I should or not; or which I abhorred from my heart: he speaks herein after the manner of men: see Jeremiah 3:16 32:35.”

— Matthew Poole, Matthew Poole's English Annotations on the Holy Bible, Commentary on Jeremiah 7:31.

“Is the Lord actually saying He did not think of something? Even in open theism, God knows all things actual as well as potential. That means God can know all things in the present tense as well as all possibilities of things that could exist. Certainly, God who knew the past sins of Israel would have thought about them doing such sin--as horrible as it was. So, it doesn't make sense to interpret this as God admitting that He never thought of something. Furthermore, the NASB,1 NIV, KJV, NKJV, RSV, 1901 ASV, all translate this as "and it did not come into My mind." What is interesting is that the LXX2 uses the Greek word kardia, "heart," instead of the Greek word for mind. Since we can conclude that God can contemplate all potential forms of rebellion, we can also conclude that God is addressing the issue of human moral behavior instead of expressing ignorance since that is what God is talking about. In other words, their sin did not enter the intention of God's heart in His plans for Judah.”

— Matt Slick, Carm.org, Commentary on Jeremiah 7:31.