

THE UNDER-WORLD OF THE DEAD 7

his strange wives. The kings of Israel after him followed his example until the days of Josiah. They even went further and caused their children to pass through the fire unto Molech, which the Lord had commanded them not to do. This is the sad picture this valley presents in its second stage, in which period it answers in a measure to its name, Hinnom, *Wailing*.

In the place where songs and sweet music were heard, now, on account of their sins and departure from God and His laws, the groans and bitter wailings of their children were heard.

The third stage in the history of this valley is marked when we reach the days of Josiah, that good king, who began early to reign and who, too, sought the Lord when young. This good king, you will recall, immediately sought to cleanse the land, the city and this valley in particular from those evils that had entered and were holding sway over the people since the days of Solomon. He defiled Tophet, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech (2 Kings 23 : 10). He cut down the