

The Babe Leapt in the Womb

Luke 1:41

A STUDY OF THE BIBLE AND ABORTION



- Today, we want to address an uncomfortable subject, but one that needs to be addressed from a Biblical perspective – abortion.
- It will become clear that my views are “politically incorrect”, and statistically, not in the majority.
- But that does not matter. Biblical “Christianity” has always been unpopular, and God’s true followers have always been in the minority
(**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**)
- In this lesson, we will notice what the Bible says about the unborn and factors associated with abortion.

Statistics about abortion

- According to www.Guttmacher.org, 1,032,600 abortions were performed in the U.S. in 2023.
- In California, 179,200
- The past 2-4 years have seen a rise in the voluntary termination of pregnancies (11% increase since 2020).
- Since Roe v. Wade passed in 1973, more than 65 MILLION children have been terminated before birth (www.NRLC.org)
- In 2021, there were 20.4 abortions for every 100 live births (approx. 17% of pregnancies terminated) (www.statista.com)

- As of May 2024, Gallup released a poll on, “Where do Americans stand on abortion?”
- 85% of Americans believe that abortion should be legal either totally (35%) or under certain circumstances (50%). 12% said it should always be illegal. 3% no opinion.
- Also noted: 54% believe abortion is morally acceptable, while 37% believe it is morally wrong.
- Clearly, abortion is a concern we need to address.
- How should Christians approach this subject?

The Bible and humanity prior to birth!

- **Genesis 1:26** – man is made in the image of God.
- **2:7** – man became a living being.
- When conception takes place between a man and women (both are needed), a human being is formed!
It will NEVER be anything different!

The Bible and humanity prior to birth!

- **Luke 1:41**, when Mary visits Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist), “*the babe leaped in her womb*”
- The word, babe (βρέφος, brephos) is also used to describe Jesus in the manger (**Luke 2:12, 16**). Thus, even in the womb, God recognized the “fetus” as a human being.
- **Vs. 42-43**, “blessed is the fruit of your womb”. Blessed is a “perfect tense” verb (“the present state of affairs”. She then calls Mary a mother.

The Bible and humanity prior to birth!

- **Job 31:13-15**, speaking of himself and his servants,
Did not He who made me in the womb make them?
Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?
- **Job 3:3**, “*May the day perish on which I was born,
And the night in which it was said, ‘A male child is
conceived.’*”

The Bible and humanity prior to birth!

- **Psalm 139:13-15**, *For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*

The Bible and humanity prior to birth!

- **Isaiah 49:1**, *“Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.*

The Bible and humanity prior to birth!

- **Genesis 25:21-23**, *“Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If all is well, why am I like this?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”*

The Bible and humanity prior to birth!

- **Exodus 21:22-25**, *“If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”*

See **Genesis 9:6, Exodus 20:13, 21:12** – the penalty for murder!

The Bible and humanity prior to birth!

- Putting these texts together, CLEARLY, we see God recognizes the unborn as people (not viable fetal tissue).
- I can find NO passage to the contrary!
- There is debate as to WHEN “fetal tissue” becomes a person (always along the lines of pro-life vs. pro-abortion). At best, we DO NOT KNOW! To act on silence is sinful – **Romans 14:22-23**
- Thus personhood at conception is the ONLY safe course.
To arbitrarily set a time is man imposing his definition.

Why Do Abortions Take Place

- The overwhelming majority of abortions are for social reasons (93-95%).
- According to Medical News Today, (a pro-abortion article), reasons stated for having an abortion include:
 - Financial reasons – 40%
 - Timing – 36% (emotional, financial)
 - Partner related issues – 31%
 - Focus on other children- 29%
 - Emotional and mental health – 19%

Why Do Abortions Take Place

- According to Medical News Today, (a pro-choice article), reasons stated for having an abortion include:
 - Expressed health concerns – 12% - health of fetus, drug use, birth control, existing health issues, effect of meds, mental health, etc.
 - Desire for a better life for the child than they could provide – 12%
 - Lack of maturity – 7%
 - Influence of family and friends – 5%
- NOTICE – these are mostly social and self-centered issues, disregarding alternatives or personal responsibility. They may be serious concerns – but the child is INNOCENT!

Why Do Abortions Take Place

- NOT mentioned in this list (nor expected) is the moral failures that led to the termination of the child.
- Fornication – unlawful relations (anything other than a husband and his wife).

According to The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, in 2021, 85.5% of abortions were unmarried.

1 Corinthians 6:18, 9; Hebrews 13:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NOTE: Abstinence guarantees you will not be face with the decision), etc.

- NOT mentioned in this list is the moral failures that led to the termination of the child.
- Selfishness – **2 Timothy 3:1-3**
- Men will be lovers of themselves – selfish!
- Proud, boasters – today many flaunt their choices – **1 Peter 5:5**
- Unloving – “without natural affection” – **Romans 1:31**. What is the typical reaction of a mother and father toward their child? This is what love is!

- NOT mentioned in this list is the moral failures that led to the termination of the child.
- Without self-control – **2 Timothy 3:1-3**
- Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – placing lusts and self-gratification above serving God and caring about others.
Putting ourselves above what is right and best!

- **A failure to value human life**
- We have already noted how God feels about murder. Abortion IS murder!
- **Genesis 9:4-6**, after the flood, God instituted capital punishment for deliberate murder
- **Psalms 106:37-38**, describing the degradation of Israel. “Innocent blood” – of their sons and daughters
QUESTION: What is the difference between the infant already born and the infant yet born? Why does the one born suddenly get rights (but not before)?

- **A failure to value human life**
- **Proverbs 6:16-19**, *These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood,...*
- Consider the doctors and “health care professionals” who perform these acts.
 - **2 Timothy 2:3** also mentions, “brutal”. Look at photos of aborted children, or read what is involved in the procedures – it is violent!
 - NOTE: The condemned “fetus” does not even get the humanity rights of someone on death row.

- **A baby is its own person.**
- Once a child is conceived (the embryo), it is its own entity (though dependent on its mother).
- Consider the stages of development and you will see how quickly their uniqueness is manifested.
- He/she is NOT a body part any more than a growing tumor is a body part. This contradicts the argument, “It’s my body to do with as I please”.

- **Christians are to defend the helpless and needy**
- Christians are to be compassionate, advocates for the helpless and needy
- **James 1:27**, visit orphans and widows
- **Proverbs 31:9**, *Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.*
- **Isaiah 1:17**, *Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.*
- There is no one more helpless than an infant, before or after he/she is born

Where Do We Go From Here?

- **How do we prevent this from happening?**
- The answer is simple: Live according to God's law.
Abstinence until you get married.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Hebrews 13:4**

Where Do We Go From Here?

- **What do we do for someone considering having an abortion?**
- You need to love them and let them know!
If they regret their conduct and repent – FORGIVE them.
While there will be consequences, they need your love and compassion (not approval of their sins).

2 Corinthians 2:6-8

Help them make the right decisions.

Consider adoption as an alternative.

Do NOT blame/reject the child – he/she is INNOCENT!

Where Do We Go From Here?

- **What do we do for someone who has had an abortion?**
- Anyone with a good conscience will regret what they have done. They have selfishly taken an innocent life. Assure them that God loves them and WILL forgive them if have repented. Help them obey God – **1 John 1:9**
It is NOT an unpardonable sin.
- Love them and help them work through their regrets and scars. **1 Thessalonians 5:14**
- GET them help if needed!
- They need God – **Philippians 4:6-7**

Abortion is sinful and requires repentance.
But that is no different than any other sin.

Whatever your need,
if we can help you, let it be known.

Let us pray!