

What Does the Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

Thursday (12/17/20) Indepth Bible Class
of the Trilacoochee church of Christ

What Does the Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Legal and ethical do not mean moral
- In the question of what does the Bible teach about unborn children, the following sources are irrelevant:
 - What the Supreme Court of the United States has to say about abortion,
 - What presidents and governors say about abortion,
 - What university professors, medical doctors, hospital ethics boards, or contemporary media say about abortion

What Does the Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- We are not attempting to convince these authorities to change
- We are addressing persons who profess to be believers and followers of God

How Many Lives Are Under Consideration?

- Over 41,000,000 babies have been aborted thus far in 2020.
- That's 116,810 per day; 4,867 per hour; 81 per minute; that's more than one for every second of the day.
- This year, 41,000,000 children were killed by abortion, while there were 1,650,000 COVID 19 deaths worldwide. For every person who died from COVID, 25 babies died because their mothers didn't want them, and their doctors had no morals.
- In the war with Iraq and Afghanistan (2003 - 2011), 6,713 American soldiers died; in the war against children in abortion clinics during the same period - 10,634,120 unborn children died.

The World We Live In

- Rom. 1:28-31 - “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful.”
- “Without natural affection” - “Astorgon, a negative derivative of stergo (to cherish affectionately); hard-hearted towards kindred, without natural affection” (Strong's - 794).

What Does The Bible Teach About People Who Do Not Protect Children?

- When Judah was in steep moral degeneration, they began to sacrifice their children (including infants) to the god Molech
 - Jer. 19:3-7 - “Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle. 4 Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocents 5 (they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind), 6 therefore behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. 7 And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives; their corpses I will give as meat for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth”

What Does The Bible Teach About People Who Do Not Protect Children?

- Herod killed infants to avoid the risk of loss of power and unsettling the region, thus incurring the wrath of Rome
 - Matt 2:16-18 - “Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: 18 ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.’”

What Does The Bible Teach About People Who Do Not Protect Children?

- Pharaoh ordered the deaths of newborns to avoid the risk of Israel threatening the security of his nation
 - Ex. 1:15-17 - “Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; 16 and he said, ‘When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.’ 17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.”

What Does The Bible Teach About People Who Do Not Protect Children?

- Adolph Hitler is excoriated in history, and rightly so, for sponsoring Dr. Josef Mengele to practice eugenics, experimenting on unborn children.
- But we live in a world that kills unborn children, not in worship of their gods or to avoid war, or to maintain national security; but because the children are an inconvenience.
- In all five cases, what they did was legal, but certainly not moral.
- In future, more enlightened times, will our descendants look back on us and our fig leaf of Roe Vs. Wade the same way we look at Herod, Pharaoh, and Hitler?

What Does The Bible Teach About People Who Do Not Protect Children?

- The question is not what is legally and ethically acceptable at any given time in history; the questions that must be asked are:
 - What has God said about the sanctity of human life?
 - What has God said about parents who kill their children?
 - What has God said about a nation that does not protect the innocent?

What Does The Bible Teach About People Who Do Not Protect Children?

- Medicine
- Psychology
- Economics
- The weaknesses in each of these discussions is that they are not relevant to the matter. Ending an innocent life is murder, a willful sin that is not subject to or justified by the motive.
- Since it is an unjustifiable murder, it cannot be mitigated by medical questions, psychological impacts, economic concerns, or any other lesser matter.
- It is and has always been a sin, and will never be otherwise, regardless of how it is viewed culturally.

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Nowhere does the Bible use contemporary ambiguous language that allows room for varied opinions.
- It does not use words like human or human being that can be semantically and connotatively adjusted to make an argument
- It uses man, woman, child, son, daughter, baby, child, etc.
- These are definitive terms that are not unclear
- The Bible makes no distinction of any kind in the terms used to describe an unborn child as a fetus rather than a child.
- **Consider the clarity of the Bible terms:**

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- James 2:26 - “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
 - Regardless of its size or level of development, an unborn child has a body that is alive in its environment; therefore, the unborn child has a spirit.
- Deut. 12:23 - “Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life...”
 - An unborn child has a bloodstream regardless of its size or stage of development.

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Gen. 5:3-4, 21, et al - “And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters... 21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.”
 - “Begot” always refers to fertilization and the resultant conception

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Gen. 25:21-22 - “Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22 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.”
- 2Kings 19:3 - “...This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.”
 - They are not called fetuses, blobs of tissue, or embryos; they are called children

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- 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.”
 - Note the contrast between his day of birth and his night of conception; on both occasions he is a child with identity
- Rev. 12:4-5 - “...And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron....”
 - Called “her child” before he is born

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Luke 1:43 - “But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”
- Num. 12:12 - “Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb”
 - Called mothers before their children are born

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Luke 1:41, 44 - “And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit... 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.”
 - Babe, not blob of tissue, fetus, or embryo.

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- Luke 1:36 - “Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.”
 - Elizabeth conceived a son; he is called a son in the sixth month of her pregnancy
- Luke 1:57 - “Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.”
 - Elizabeth brought forth a son; there is no difference in the terms used for the unborn and born son
- By the way, three of these passages that speak of the unborn as children were written by Luke, a doctor.

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Ex. 21:22-23 - “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. 23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life”
 - Causing premature birth: “Life for life”
- Matt. 1:18 - “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”
 - Mary was found with “child”

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- Gen. 25:22-24 - “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. 23 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.’ 24 So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.”
 - Children, peoples, nations, twins, not fetuses, embryos, or blobs of tissue.

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Psalm 139:13-16 - “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.”
 - God gave David identity before he was born

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Jer. 1:5 - “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”
 - God gave Jeremiah identity and purpose before he was born
 - Who has the authority to void the purposes of God?
- **Consider the clarity of Bible reasoning**

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Gen. 1:26-27 - “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
 - God created humankind in His image

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- He originally did so by miracle
- He then ordained that more human beings created in His image would be generated by the reproductive process, which He blessed and sanctified for this purpose
- Gen. 1:28 - “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

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- Matt. 19:4-6 - "...Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh..."
- Heb. 13:4 - "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."
- One who ends a life created in the image of God by the means He ordained that life would be reproduced defies God and the image in which he or she was created.

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Gen. 9:6 - “Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”
 - Killing a human being is different than killing an animal or removing cancerous or gangrenous tissue.
 - Note first that God’s reason for the punishment of those who kill human beings is that they are created in His image
 - Note also that there is no limiter on the age or development of the human being killed in the text

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- Psalm 8:3-6 - “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet”
 - Humankind is God’s special creation that He carefully watches and attends to

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- Psalm 127:3 - “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.”
- Gen. 4:1 - “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, ‘I have acquired a man from the LORD.’”
 - The Scriptures treat infants and children as blessings and gifts from the Lord

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Prov. 6:16-19 - “These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”
 - God hates those who harm the innocent

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Jesus loved little children. When others rebuked them as bothersome, Jesus took time to pray for them and bless them
- Matt. 19:13-15 - “Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’ 15 And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.”

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- Luke 18:15-17 - “Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. 17 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’”
- Matt. 18:2-4 - “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’”

What Does The Bible Teach About Unborn Children?

- Our world can call it whatever they wish: abortion, removing unwanted tissue, terminating a pregnancy, pro-choice -- it is still murder of a child.
- It is not a question of what is legally correct or socially acceptable; it is a matter of what God has defined as morally right.
- We are not going to convince a world that is fully reprobate and hardened beyond the reach of the truth; our task is to teach those who profess to believe and follow God that His word forbids harm to unborn children.