

Abortion

From the viewpoint of the Creator God the giver and sustainer of all life.

Is the foetus a person?

That is the key question that governs the issue of abortion, the deliberate termination of a pregnancy.

Surely the One who should be legislating on the abortion issue is the Creator God, and His will as expressed in the Handbook for Life, the Christian Bible!!

The foetus in God's eyes

Matthew 1:20-21 [NIV] *“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.**”*

The conceived foetus in Mary is called a son, who has already been named by God. Very much a person.

Luke 1:36, 41, 44 [NIV] *“Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.” ... “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, **the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.**” ... “As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, **the baby in my womb leaped for joy.**”*

At 24 weeks the foetus not only is a person but has conscious awareness of what is happening in the world into which it will be born.

Psalms 51:5 [King James] *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*

The foetus in God's eyes is already influenced by human nature, a nature that is perverse, persistent in error, missing the very purpose for the life that has been generated. The two Hebrew words used for iniquity and sin indicate this situation.

Romans 7:18 [NIV] *“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”*

Paul acknowledged the same situation, a nature that is sinful.

Romans 1:18-20 [NIV] *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since **the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.**”*

God points us towards His physical creation to understand many things about His nature.

I would like to pause to inject certain findings of science as to the activity of a foetus that point towards what God's Word states.

Quotation from the book **‘From Conception to Birth’** by Dr. Robert Rugg and Dr. Landrum Shettles.

“Brainwaves, which normally start in the eighth or ninth week of pregnancy (they have been detected as early as the fifth week) quickly take on, in the words of one investigator, *‘a distinction individual*

pattern'. The same is true of the foetus body movements, which begin about this time. The first stirrings – usually slight changes in position, are discernable as early as the eighth week, but active movement does not usually start until the tenth or eleventh week. Thereafter the child quickly masters a host of complex and increasingly individual movements. Babies in the utero have been photographed scratching their noses, sucking their thumbs, raising their heads and reaching out. Because a ten or eleven week old child not only moves, but moves in a purposeful way, raises the possibility that those faint E.C.G. tracings, brainwaves, in the second and third month are indicative of meaningful mental activity.”

Quotation from ‘**Aborting America**’ by Dr. Bernard Nathanson.

“The foetus meets all the criteria for life as established by the Harvard Medical School. These were created in the late 1960s to help physicians re-define the line between life and death in light of new advances in medical technology.

The four signs of death are:

No response to external stimuli

No deep reflexes

No spontaneous movement or respiratory efforts

No brain activity

These physiological guidelines are the best we can devise, since ego, spirit, self, soul, whatever name one chooses to define human life, lie well beyond our measurement tools.

The fact that the foetus tests “alive” by all four criteria raises significant questions about current attitudes towards abortion.”

Quotation ‘**The Secret Life of the Unborn Child**’ by Dr. Thomas Verny with John Kelly [1981].

“The abortion issue cannot be sidestepped, if for no other reason than that the thrust of our knowledge is moving steadily backwards towards the origins of life (conception). A decade or two ago, the notion that a six-month-old foetus possessed consciousness would have been laughed at. Today [1981], many consider it an accepted fact. A decade from now, as our techniques grow more sophisticated, that line could conceivably stand at three, perhaps even two month.”

How does God relate to a foetus?

Psalm 139:13-16 [Good News Bible] *“You [God] created every part of me; **you put me together in my mother’s womb.** I praise you because you are to be feared. All you do is strange and wonderful. I know it with all my heart. **When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother’s womb.** When I was growing there in secret, you knew that I was there, you saw me before I was born. **The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book before any of them ever began.**”*

God cares for the conceived child; to Him they are a precious person whose first day of life begins at the moment of conception.

Isaiah 44:2, 24 [NIV] *“This is what the LORD says, **he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you:** Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.” ... “This is what the LORD says, your Redeemer, **who formed you in the womb:** I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,”*

The Hebrew word translated “made” [“*asah*”] is a prime root word that is used in the broadest sense, including original conception.

Psalm 127 [Message Bible] *“Don’t you see that children are God’s best gift? The fruit of the womb His generous legacy?”*

To be able to conceive and bear children is the best blessing we can receive from God.

We better understand this fact when we know the reason for human existence.

God plans a child’s life.

Psalm 139:16 [Good News Bible] *“You saw me before I was born. The days allotted to me had been recorded in your book [the book of life] before any of them ever began.”*

God plans our life from conception the first day of our existence.

Isaiah 49:1 [RSV] *“... the Lord called me from [within] the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.”*

God gives each conceived child a name, this may **not** be the name that the parents choose. God names a person what He intends to make them as He moulds and matures that person during the physical life.

Isaiah 46:9-10 [NIV] *“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”*

As God lives outside of the limits of time He can see the future as well as the past.

Isaiah 64:8 [NIV] *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

God is moulding each of us to form us into an acceptable child of His whom He can give the gift of eternal life.

Job 14:14-15 [NIV] *“If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. You will call and I will answer you; you will long for the creature your hands have made.”*

If we allow God to mould and mature us we will be a person whom He desires to spend eternity with as part of His created family.

Jeremiah 1:5 [NIV] *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

Before Jeremiah was conceived God had chosen him to perform a certain job in his future life. This is applicable to every human being who is conceived.

Galatians 1:15 [King James] *“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace,”*

The Greek word translated “from” is “ex” denotes a motion from interior outwards, indicating **even from the moment of conception God offered His grace to us.**

What happens to a foetus that is rejected by the mother and aborted?

It is incinerated along with all other medical waste from operations.

How does God react to this?

2 Chronicles 28:1-3 [NIV] *“Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD. He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and also made cast idols for worshipping the Baals. **He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his sons in the fire, following the detestable ways of the nations that the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.**”*

In the context of worshipping a false God children were offered as burnt sacrifices.

Imagine the monstrous evil of a religion that offers children as sacrifices to a God to pacify the anger of that false God.

This is the very opposite to the love and concern that the true God of the Christian Bible has for children, even those not yet born to physical life.

2 Chronicles 28:5 [NIV] *“Therefore the LORD his God handed him over to the king of Aram. The Arameans defeated him and took many of his people as prisoners and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hands of the king of Israel, who inflicted heavy casualties on him.”*

God allowed the whole nation to be taken into captivity by a foreign nation as a result of this evil practice.

Even today in our nation this practice of child sacrifice has not abated, in fact it is on the increase.

The sacrifice of unborn children to the harsh gods of convenience, economy and whim continues in sterile medical institutions in a number that would astound those who in the past did this to worship false gods.

Jeremiah 19:3-9 [NIV] *“and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. **For they have forsaken me and made this a place of foreign gods; they have burned sacrifices in it to gods that neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah ever knew, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. They have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as offerings to Baal, something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter my mind.** So beware, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. “In this place I will ruin the plans of Judah and Jerusalem. **I will make them fall by the sword before their enemies, at the hands of those who seek their lives, and I will give their carcasses as food to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth. I will devastate this city and make it an object of scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff because of all its wounds. I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and daughters, and they will eat one another’s flesh during the stress of the siege imposed on them by the enemies who seek their lives.**”*

The end result of sacrificing children to the Pagan god [Molech].

Jeremiah 32:33-35 [NIV] *“They turned their backs to me and not their faces; though I taught them again and again, they would not listen or respond to discipline. They set up their abominable idols in the house that bears my Name and defiled it. **They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech, though I never commanded, nor did it enter my mind, that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.**”*

The people had turned their back on God and His way of life, not knowing the reason for their conception and birth as human beings.

Ezekiel 16:20-22 [NIV] *“And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough? **You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols.** In all your detestable practices and your prostitution you*

did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your blood.”

Abortion is linked in God’s mind to prostitution.

Ezekiel 16:27 [NIV] *“So I stretched out my hand against you and reduced your territory; I gave you over to the greed of your enemies, the daughters of the Philistines, who were shocked by your lewd conduct.”*

Other nations are shocked by our conduct.

Ezekiel 20:30-31 [NIV] *“Therefore say to the house of Israel: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Will you defile yourselves the way your fathers did and lust after their vile images? When you offer your gifts, the sacrifice of your sons in the fire, you continue to defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. Am I to let you enquire of me, O house of Israel? As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will not let you enquire of me.’”*

Such practices cut us off from God’s love for us and stops Him offering us eternal life.

Ezekiel 23:35-39 [NIV] *“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Since you have forgotten me and thrust me behind your back, you must bear the consequences of your lewdness and prostitution.**” The LORD said to me: “Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then confront them with their detestable practices, for they have committed adultery and blood is on their hands. **They committed adultery with their idols; they even sacrificed their children, whom they bore to me, as food for them.** They have also done this to me: At that same time they defiled my sanctuary and desecrated my Sabbaths. **On the very day they sacrificed their children to their idols, they entered my sanctuary and desecrated it. That is what they did in my house.**”*

We cannot worship God and wilfully sin at same time. God no longer looks on this as a Christian nation when the leaders allow such evil practices.

Matthew 19:14 [NIV] *“Jesus said, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”**”*

If we are to allow children to come to Jesus Christ and be offered the gift of eternal life in the created family of God, we must first allow them to be born into this physical world.