

# Does the Bible Speak About Abortion?

Bill Weger

I. We search the Bible for clues about God's view of life.

II. The OT has several scriptures concerning life in the womb.

A. Genesis 25:21-22 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

The word that is translated "children" in this passage is the same word used for children after they are born. (Banim, plural of Ben), meaning SONS. No difference is found in the Scriptures for descriptions of unborn and born children.

B. Psalms 139:13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

C. Jeremiah 1:4-5 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Even before conception God recognizes a new individual, He is active in the process of conception, as well as development of the individual.

D. Job 10:8-12 Your hands fashioned and made me altogether, And would You destroy me? Remember now, that You have made me as clay; And would You turn me into dust again? Did You not pour me out like milk And curdle me like cheese; Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews? You have granted me life and lovingkindness; And Your care has preserved my spirit.

Job knew that God formed him from conception, and blessed him in his life.

E. Job 31: 13-15 If I have despised the claim of my male or female slaves When they filed a complaint against me, What then could I do when God arises? And when He calls me to account, what will I answer Him? Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?

Job also recognized that God works the same way with all peoples and is therefore no respecter of persons.

F. Isaiah 44: 1-2 But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, And Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you,

God affirmed directly to Isaiah that he is active in forming individuals in the womb.

G. Hosea 12:2-3 The LORD also has a dispute with Judah, And will punish Jacob according to his ways; He will repay him according to his deeds. In the womb he took his brother by the heel, And in his maturity he contended with God.

Hosea's prophecy included information that God knew concerning events in the womb of Rebekah between Jacob and Esau. These are actions of an individual.

III. There are also scriptures in the New Testament that state the same position – that children in the womb are individuals.

A. Luke 1:39-45

B. Romans 9:11 and Galatians 1:15 show also that God prepares a destiny for certain individuals even before they are born

IV. Exodus 21:22-25 is often used to indicate that a lesser value would be placed on an unborn child. However, this is mainly due to a mistranslation. If the child is born early, and no damage occurs, then the offending party is required to make minor restitution. However, in the case of further damage to either the woman or the child, then more severe restitution is required. This is a more proper translation of the passage. The proper translation of the passage places the child on an equal legal footing with the mother.

V. Many passages in the Bible are concerned with the “shedding of innocent blood.” (Deuteronomy 19:10; Proverbs 6:17; Isaiah 1:15; Jeremiah 22:17)

A major condemnation is laid upon Israel because they had taken up the practice of their neighbors to sacrifice their children to idols (Jeremiah 7:30-34; Ezekiel 16:20-21, 36-38; 20:31; compare 2 Kings 21:2-6 and Jeremiah 15:3-4).

Consider that the Bible does not make a distinction between born and unborn children. A woman conceives, and is “with child.” In the New Testament, the same word “Brephos” is used to describe both born and unborn children.

Is there a difference in sacrificing a child to an idol of stone and an idol of self-indulgence?