

What the Bible Says About Pre-Born Life

Jamie Thompson & Sara Patterson

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Intro

What the Bible says about pre-born life (see second page)
Other biblical and theological truths that speak to this issue

1. Imago Dei

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and 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.

"All human life—at whatever stage of development, from conception to death; at whatever socio-economic status; and at whatever level of physical or intellectual capability—is sacred, because all human beings are created in God's image. Even when this image has been corrupted by our sin, every human being is still worthy of honor and respect. There is nothing more valuable in all of creation than a human life." (Evangelical Convictions, p. 48)

2. Biblical categories

Scripture gives us two categories for ethical reasoning: Right/wrong and wise/unwise.

3. Scripture is pro-children

4. God's heart for the vulnerable

5. Kingdom of God and kingdom of this world

What our culture says about pre-born life

- A woman's rights issue
- A healthcare issue
- Reproductive freedom issue
- Whether to say the word "abortion"
- Can have entire conversation and position without discussing what that thing in the womb is

Questions we can ask

- In what ways have conversations about abortion or decisions about abortion affected you or those you love?
- When do you believe life begins? How did you come to that belief?
- At what stage of development should an unborn child have human rights?
- What do you see as the main distinction between an unborn child a week before that point versus a week after that point?
- In what ways do you believe fathers should be involved in decision making?
- What kind of systems of support for moms facing unplanned pregnancies would open up the possibility of keeping her child or putting her child up for adoption?
- Abortion has disproportionately affected black and brown families in our country, abortion has been used globally to select male babies over female babies, and abortion has resulted in the dramatic reduction of people with Down's Syndrome. How are we to understand those dynamics as it relates to the dignity and worth of human beings?

How to support moms and babies

Q&A

What the Bible says about Pre-Born Life

1. The Lord is sovereign over the conception of children. Life is not accidental.

Genesis 29:31

When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

Genesis 30:22

Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

1 Samuel 1:5

But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb.

2. The Lord forms babies in the womb. Life begins with the intentional and loving work of God our Creator and Redeemer.

Psalms 139:13-16

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

Psalms 119:73

Your hands have made and fashioned me;
give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.

Job 10:11-12

¹¹ You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews.

¹² You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit.

Isaiah 44:24

²⁴ Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,

3. The Lord knows and calls babies from the womb. Unborn children are chosen as servants of the Lord.

Isaiah 49:1, 5

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The Lord called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name...
⁵ And now the Lord says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

4. Jesus’ birth narratives. The Holy Spirit is active nurturing spiritual life in the womb.

Matthew 1:20

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:15

For he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:41-44

⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.