

One Unchanging Basis for the Sanctity of Human Life

Your True Identity and Destiny, and Why Human Life Should be Protected

by Thomas W. Jacobson (18 June 2013)

Who am I? Is there a purpose or destiny to my life? Is there intrinsic value to my life? Why am I here? These are questions that plague most people, and haunted me for years.

What if you could know with certainty that the Creator of the universe created you, knew you before you were conceived in your mother's womb, and had a purpose for your life? You can know.

If you work in government, and make policies or laws – or administer, enforce, or adjudicate them – would it not make an enormous difference to understand the unchanging basis for the sanctity of human life? Would you not use all of the power entrusted to you to protect, not destroy or authorize the destruction of, innocent human life?

Thirty years ago I was faced with a Truth that changed my understanding of who I am, and who every person is before the Creator, and of the purpose and duties of civil government.

That Truth realized was that human life is a sacred gift because every person is created in the image and likeness of the Creator God (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2). That includes every male and female, every perfectly formed or imperfect baby, the whole spectrum of color of skin, and every baby conceived in rape or incest. Every baby!

Another short writing, “Does Human Life Have Intrinsic Value?,” established the basis for this Truth. This writing enlarges that understanding. Follow my journey through the Bible and you too will be inspired and changed.

During three decades of study and work in the realm of public policy, I've observed this: any policy consistent with the unchanging Truth in Scripture will be good for the people, and stand the test of time, lasting for unlimited generations; but any policy contrary to the Truth and Eternal Principles therein will prove to be foolish and harmful, whether that fact is realized in a short time or decades later. So here is the Truth on human life.

God is the Creator of Mankind & Creates Every Child in the Womb

“In the beginning God [‘ELOHIYM] created the heavens and the earth. ... Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ... God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them’ (Genesis 1:1,26-27).

“Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, ‘I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD* [YĔHOVAH]” (Genesis 4:1).

“The LORD [YĔHOVAH] appeared to Abram and said ... ‘I will bless [Sarah], and indeed I will give you a son by her ... and you shall call his name Isaac” (Genesis 17:1, 16, 19).

“Know that the LORD [YĔHOVAH] Himself is God [‘ELOHIYM]; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people and the sheep of His pasture” (Psalm 100:3).

“Your hands fashioned and made me altogether ... Did You not ... 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 10:8, 10-12).

“Did not He who made me in the womb make him, and the same one fashion us in the womb” (Job 31:15)?

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life” (Job 33:4).

“Thus says the LORD [YĔHOVAH], your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, ‘I, the LORD, am the maker of all things” (Isaiah 44:24).

“*Thus* declares the LORD [YĔHOVAH] who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him” (Zechariah 12:1).

Children are a Blessing From God

“Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward” (Psalm 127:3).

“He lifted his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, ‘Who are these with you?’ So he said, ‘The children whom God has graciously given your servant” (Genesis 33:5).

“From the God of your father who helps you, and by the Almighty who blesses you *with* blessings of heaven above ... blessings of the breasts and of the womb” (Genesis 49:25).

“Then it shall come about, because you listen ... the LORD your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness ... He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb” (Deuteronomy 7:12-13).

“All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God ... Blessed *shall be* the offspring of your body ... The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body” (Deuteronomy 28:2, 4, 11).

God Knows Every Child Before Conception or Birth

“Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth

will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the LORD; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the LORD their God. It is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the LORD” (Luke 1:12-17).

“The angel Gabriel was sent from God ... to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ... The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.’ ... Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God’” (Luke 1:26-27, 30-31, 34-35).

“But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might ...” (Galatians 1:15).

God Has a Purpose and Destiny for Every Person

“For I have chosen (known) him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD [YĔHOVAH] by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him” (Genesis 18:19).

“The LORD [YĔHOVAH] called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named Me. ... And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant ...” (Isaiah 49:1, 5). [prophetic of the then future coming of Jesus the Messiah]

“The LORD said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake’” (Acts 9:15).

Cautions Against Denying the Creation of a Baby in the Womb

“Woe to *the one* who quarrels with his Maker — an earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands’? Woe to him who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting?’ Or to a woman, ‘To what are you giving birth?’” (Isaiah 45:9-10)

Implications and Applications

If you believe these Truths evident in the Scriptures, then you welcome children as a gift from the LORD, and respect all human life as a sacred gift from conception or fertilization to natural death. You will not abort your children. If you have aborted a child, know that

there is forgiveness for your sin, and healing for your soul, through Jesus Christ alone. Remember when He who was without sin was murdered, being put to death for our sin by the foreknowledge and plan of Father God, He said from the cross: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

If you created, administered, enforced, or upheld unjust policies and laws that took the lives of innocent people or preborn children, repent of doing so and receive God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Then make whatever restitution is possible. Then do all within your lawful authority to abolish such policies, including those that permit elective abortion, infanticide, or murder.

All Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible.