

When Does Life Begin?

Luke 1:15, 41-44

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

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Introduction: Today is one day after the 49th anniversary of the infamous “Roe vs. Wade” decision handed down by the Supreme Court (Jan. 22, 1973). Because of a case under consideration by the Supreme Court even now, it is possible that the “Roe vs. Wade” decision may be overturned. If that indeed happens, it does not mean that abortion will be illegal in the U.S., but rather each state will make laws concerning abortion restrictions or abortion bans. We considered this morning “The miracle of human life” as we looked at Psalm 139:13-18. What else does the Bible have to say about this issue? By way of introduction, note how we might answer the question as to when life begins. I would suggest that on the basis of Luke 1:31, Psalm 51:5, & Ecclesiastes 11:5 that life begins at conception. I want to direct our attention to 3 ramifications concerning the beginning of human life. Note with me tonight: the fruit of the womb (God’s blessing), the life within the womb (God’s “building”), & the purpose from the womb (God’s bidding).

I. The fruit of the womb > God’s **blessing**

A. Children are the **reward** of the Lord:

1. Psalm 127:3, “*Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: & the fruit of the womb is His reward.*”
2. Psalm 113:9, “*He maketh the barren woman to keep house, & to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.*” [& see I Samuel 1:19-20, “*Samuel*” – “heard (or asked) of God.”]

B. Children are **received** from the Lord:

1. Genesis 33:5, “*And he (Jacob) said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.*”
2. Genesis 48:9, “*And Joseph said unto his father, They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place...*”

II. The life within the womb > God’s **“building”**

A. John the Baptist:

1. Luke 1:36, “*And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: & this is the sixth month with her, who was barren.*”
2. Luke 1:41-44, “*...the babe leaped in her womb...For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.*”
 - a. The Greek word for “babe” is “*brephos*” –referring to the baby in the womb.
 - b. The same Greek word is used in Luke 18:15-17, translated “*infants*” – those already born.

B. Job:

1. Job 31:15a, “*Did not He that made me in the womb make him?*”
2. Job 31:15b, “*...and did not One fashion us in the womb?*”

C. Israel (individual Jews):

1. Isaiah 43:7, “*Even every one that is called by My name: for I have created him for My glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*”
2. Isaiah 44:2, “*Thus saith the LORD that made thee, & formed thee from the womb...*”

III. The purpose from the womb > God's **bidding**

A. John the Baptist:

Luke 1:15, "...and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb."

B. Messiah:

Isaiah 49:1-3, "...The LORD hath called Me from the womb, from the bowels of My mother hath He made mention of My name...Thou art My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

C. Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; & before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, & I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

D. Paul:

Galatians 1:15, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, & called me by His grace."

Conclusion: Why do I share such messages with you today? I would point to the text, Proverbs 31:8, "*Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.*" What will you do with the personal exhortation from this verse? Will you open your eyes to the perspective of the Bible? God is the giver (& taker) of life. Children are the gift of God, the "*fruit of the womb is His reward.*" The unborn baby is spoken of as a person, truly human. Then will you open your mouth to the protection of the baby? You may ask, "What can I do?" Let me suggest 5 things: (1) Pray > for Christians to respond with love & aid to women in need; for crisis pregnancy centers to be effective in providing alternatives to abortion; for women to choose life over abortion; & for state & federal laws that protect women & unborn children; (2) Praise > for the case now being considered by the Supreme Court ("Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization") which may well overturn "Roe vs. Wade." (3) Give > of your time, money, & support for abortion alternatives, such as Crisis Pregnancy Centers; (4) Encourage > pro-life pastors, physicians, politicians, & others to stand strong in their commitment to life; & (5) Get involved > by making your voice known – voting in every election, mindful particularly of pro-life candidates & legislation. Consider the words of our Savior, "*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me*" (Matthew 25:40). Can you sit back & do nothing & still live with your conscience? Oh that we might hear & heed this exhortation of Scripture, "*Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.*"