God is All-Powerful

(The Omnipotence of God as seen in the formation of Life)
Psalm 139:13-18
3-3-2021

After honoring God for His omniscience (v.1-6), and after extolling God for His omnipresence (v.7-12), David now (directed by the Holy Spirit), praises God for His omnipotence as demonstrated by His work of developing a child in his mother's womb.

God is omnipotent!
The formation of a child in the womb is:

I. An INTRICATE Work (v.13)
(The Details of God's Handiwork)

II. An AMAZING Work (v.14)
(The Awesomeness of God's Handiwork)

III. A MYSTERIOUS Work (v.15)
(The *Secrets* of God's Handiwork)

IV. A SOVEREIGN Work (v.16)
(The Plan of God's Handiwork)

V. A CONSCIENTIOUS Work (v. 17-18)
(The Concern for God's Handiwork)

Biblical principles that must be applied to the issue of abortion:

1. Children are a gift from God. *(Psalm 127:3; Gen. 33:5; Ps. 113:9; Ruth 4:13)*
2) Conception is an act of God *(Ruth 4:13)*
3) The unborn child is a distinct human life from conception
   a) The baby in the womb is alive *(Psalm 51:5; Job 3:11-16; Luke 1:41)*
   b) The baby in the womb is a person *- (Psalm 139:13; Jer. 1:5)*
   c) The baby in the womb is known by God *(Jer. 1:5; Psalm 139:13-15; Luke 1:41-44; Gal. 1:15).*
   d) The baby in the womb is developed by God *(Jer. 1:5; Psalm 94:9, 139:13-16; Is. 49:1, 5)*
4) To kill a baby while in the womb is murder! *(Exod. 21:22-23)*

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God is omnipotent!

The formation of a child in the womb is:

I. An INTRICATE Work (v.13)
(The Details of God's Handiwork)

"Possessed my reins" = You own my inner parts; You are "lord and possessor of my most secret self..." (Spurgeon, p.262); "..the most hidden and vital portion of the man; this God doth not only inspect, and visit, but it is his own; he is as much at home there as a landlord on his own estate, or the proprietor (owner) in his own house." (Spurgeon)

"Covered" = to weave; God joins each body part together

"God not only sees the invisible and penetrates the inaccessible, but is operative there, the Author of every detail of my being" (Kidner, p. 465)

"yet unborn, he was under the control and guardianship of God" (Spurgeon)

II. An AMAZING Work (v.14)
(The Awesomeness of God's Handiwork)

"I will praise thee" – "We cannot begin too soon to bless our Maker, who began so soon to bless us: even in the act of creation he created reasons for our praising his name….Who can gaze even upon a model of our anatomy without wonder and awe?" (Spurgeon, p. 262)

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made" = "I am awesomely wonderful" (Kidner)

As David contemplated the complexity, intricacy, cohesiveness, the balance, chemistry, inner workings, etc., of the human body, he in fear shudders with astonishment at the mighty work of God.

Whereas David looked at his body and realized that he was the product of an omnipotent God, the contemporary evolutionist looks at his body and assumed he is the product of an impersonal chance.

"And that my soul knoweth right well" – "He was no agnostic – he knew; he was no doubter—his soul knew…" (Spurgeon)

Four arguments against evolution:

1) It is <u>improbable</u> – statistically improbable (EX: explosion in a print shop producing a dictionary)
2) It is <u>unscientific</u> – scientifically unprovable (no life form has ever evolved in a lab)
3) It is <u>illogical</u> – intellectually illogical (that something can come out of nothing)
4) It is <u>unbiblical</u> – Scripturally unbiblical (Bible: "in the beginning…God")

III. A <u>MYSTERIOUS</u> Work (v.15)

(The <u>*Secrets*</u> of God's Handiwork)

"My substance" – my strong parts, my sturdy parts of my human frame; i.e. my bones or skeleton

"Curiously wrought" – to be embroidered with various and complex colors and patterns

The phrase was used to describe a waver; it was an embroidery term used of Aaron's garment.

"Embroidered with great skill, is an accurate poetical description of the creation of veins, sinews, muscles, nerves, etc. What tapestry can equal the human fabric? This work is wrought as much in private as if it had been accomplished in the (dark) grave, or in the darkness of the abyss." (Spurgeon, p.263)

"The lowest parts of the earth" – a metaphorical description of the mother's womb. The development of the child in the womb was looked upon by the Israelitish chokma as one of the greatest mysteries (Eccl. 11:5), as mysterious as the netherworld (SEE: Dilitzsch, pp. 348-349).

If God's work in developing a child in the womb is mysterious, "what shall we not say of that new birth which is even more mysterious than the first, and exhibits even more the love and wisdom of the Lord…the formation of the mystical body of our Lord Jesus is even more mysterious" (Spurgeon, p.262-263)

IV. A SOVEREIGN Work (v.16)

(The Plan of God's Handiwork)

"Unperfect" – not fully developed; in embryonic state (cp. Job 10:8-12).

"in thy book all my members were written…" – That we have eyes, and ears, and hands, and feet, is all due to the wise and gracious purpose of heaven: it was so ordered in the secret decree by which all things are as they are. God's purposes concern our limbs and faculties. Their form, and shape, and everything about them were appointed of God long before they had any existence….all those members were before in the eye of God in the sketch-book of his foreknowledge and predestination." (Spurgeon, p.263)

"When as yet there was none of them" – Before you were even formed in the womb, God had every body part written in His book and He had a plan for every detail of your being. God's prenatal fashioning of us is a powerful reminder of the value He sets on us, even as embryos, and it is reminder of His planning our end from the beginning (Kidner, p. 466).

V. A CONSCIENTIOUS Work (v. 17-18)

(The Concern for God's Handiwork)

"Precious" = valuable, something to be desired

"Great" = innumerable

"They are more in number than the sand" – "This is not the hyperbole of poetry, but the solid fact of inspired statement: God thinks upon us infinitely: There is a limit to the act of creation, but not to the might of divine love.

"Thoughts of our pardon, renewal, upholding, supplying, educating, perfecting, and a thousand more kinds perpetually well up in the mind of the Most High" (Spurgeon, p.265).

"When I awake, I am still with thee" – David, who often faced persecution, before falling asleep would comfort his heart with the reality of God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence (v. 1-18). When he wakes up, he realizes that God's all-knowing mind has not drifted from him; God's all-seeing eye has not strayed from him; God's all-powerful hand has not been removed from him.

Man is the crown of God's creation. His most glorious "handiwork."

Man is made in the image and likenss of God (Gen. 1:26); therefore, his life is to be honored and respected (Gen. 9:6; Ja. 3:9).

It seems to be prophetic that in the same context of speaking about the sanctity of life and God's care and concern for the unborn, the psalmist refers to the wicked as being "bloody men" (v. 19). It's as if God prophesied in advance about the horrifying dilemma of abortion.

v.19 – Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God." – "Crimes committed before the face of the Judge are not likely to go unpunished" (Spurgeon)

v. 19 – "Ye bloody men" – Men who delight in bloodshed have no association with those who fear God and honor life.

If God is truly the author and giver of Life. If He is at work weaving a child in his mother's womb. What does this say regarding those who terminate life in the womb?

The Issue of ABORTION

Statistics that Shock:

NEW YORK, New York, January 5, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com) – With the highest abortion rate in the nation, nearly double the 23% national average, New York continues to be a place that babies in the womb cannot live.

New York City Department of Health released data that shows that 83,750 abortions were performed in New York City in 2010, which translated to 40% of all pregnancies, down from 41% in 2009.

The Bronx saw a staggering 48% of pregnancies end in abortion. The city lost 38,574 African-Americans babies to abortion, a dumbfounding 60% of the city's African-American pregnancies.

The abortion rate among NY teens as a whole was 63%, 12,139 abortions to 7,207 live births. That means that for every 1,000 babies born among New York City teens, 1,684 were aborted.

WHO HAS ABORTIONS?

- In 2008, 84.3% of all abortions were performed on unmarried women (CDC).
- Women living with a partner to whom they are not married account for 25% of abortions but only about 10% of women in the population (NAF).
- Women between the ages of 20-24 obtained 33% of all abortions in 2008; women between 25-29 obtained 24% (CDC).
- In 2008, women aged 20-29 years had the highest abortion rates (29.6 abortions per 1,000 women aged 20-24 years and 21.6 abortions per 1,000 women aged 25-29 years) (CDC).
- 50% of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25; women aged 20-24 obtain 33% of all U.S. abortions and teenagers obtain 17% (AGI).
- In 2008, adolescents under 15 years obtained .05% of all abortions, but had the highest abortion ratio, 821 abortions for every 1,000 live births (CDC).
- 47% of women who have abortions had at least one previous abortion (AGI).
- Black women are more than 4.8 times more likely than non-Hispanic white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are 2.7 times as likely (AGI).
- The abortion rate of non-metropolitan women is about half that of women who live in metropolitan counties (NAF).

- The abortion rate of women with Medicaid coverage is three times as high as that of other women (NAF).
- 37% of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 28% identify themselves as Catholic (AGI).
- At current rates, nearly one-third of American women will have an abortion (AGI).

WHY ARE ABORTIONS PERFORMED?

- On average, women give at least 3 reasons for choosing abortion: 3/4 say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or other responsibilities; about 3/4 say they cannot afford a child; and 1/2 say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner (AGI).
- Only 12% of women included a physical problem with their health among reasons for having an abortion (NAF).
- One per cent (of aborting women) reported that they were the survivors of rape (NAF).

WHEN DO ABORTIONS OCCUR?

- 88-92% of all abortions happen during the first trimester, prior to the 13th week of gestation (AGI/CDC).
- In 2008, 7.3% of all abortions were performed at 14-20 weeks' gestation; 1.3% were performed at ≥21 weeks' gestation (CDC).
- Percentage of 2008 Reported Abortions by Weeks of Gestation* (CDC):

≤6 wks	7 wks	8 wks	9 wks	10 wks	11 wks	12 wks	13 wks	14-15 wks	16-17 wks	18-20 wks	≥21 wks
30.7%	18.1%	14.0%	9.6%	6.8%	5.3%	4.0%	2.9%	3.5%	2.0%	1.9%	1.3%

- *Gestational weeks are measured from the first day of the woman's last menstruation and not from the day of conception. Though it does not provide an accurate fetal age (which is roughly 2 weeks less than the gestational age), it is the simplest way for an OB/GYN to age a pregnancy since the day of conception is often not known. Hence, if an abortion occurs at 8 weeks gestation, it is actually aborting a 6 week embryo. The images on ourPrenatal Development and Abortion Pictures pages are more precisely captioned with fetal ages in accordance with standard teaching texts on prenatal development.

HOW ARE ABORTIONS PERFORMED?

- In 2008, 84.6% of abortions were performed by curettage (which includes dilatation and evacuation). Most curettage abortions are suction procedures (CDC).
- Medical abortions made up approximately 14.6% of all abortions reported (CDC).
- Ninety-six per cent of the more than 140,000 second-trimester abortions performed annually in the USA are accomplished by the technique of dilation and evacuation (D&E) (NAF).

WHO IS PERFORMING ABORTIONS?

- The number of abortion providers declined by 11% between 1996 and 2000 (from 2,042 to 1,819). It declined another 2% between 2000 and 2005 (from 1,819 to 1,787) It has remained stable between 2005 and 2008 (1,787 to 1,793). (AGI).
- Forty-two percent of providers offer very early abortions (during the first four weeks' gestation) and 95% offer abortion at eight weeks. Sixty-four percent of providers offer at least some second-trimester abortion services (13 weeks or later), and 20% offer abortion after 20 weeks. Eleven percent of all abortion providers offer abortions past 24 weeks (AGI).
- Most abortions in the USA are provided in freestanding clinics; in 2005, only 5% occurred in hospitals, down from 22% in 1980, and only 2% took place in physician's offices (NAF).

ABORTION FATALITY

- In 2007, 6 women died as a result of complications from known legal induced abortion (CDC).
- The number of deaths attributable to legal induced abortion was highest before the 1980s (CDC).
- In 1972 (the year before abortion was federally legalized), a total of 24 women died from causes known to be associated with legal abortions, and 39 died as a result of known illegal abortions(CDC).

THE COST OF ABORTION

- In 2009, the average cost of a nonhospital abortion with local anesthesia at 10 weeks of gestation was $451 (AGI).

MEDICAL ABORTION

- In 2005, 57% of abortion providers, or 1,026 facilities, provided one or more types of medical abortions, a 70% increase from the first half of 2001. At least 10% of nonhospital abortion providers offer only medication abortion services (AGI).
- In 2005, an estimated 161,100 early medication abortions were performed in nonhospital facilities (AGI).
- Medication abortion accounted for 17% of all abortions in 2008 (AGI).

ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTION

- Induced abortions usually result from unintended pregnancies, which often occur despite the use ofcontraception (CDC).
- 54% of women having abortions used a contraceptive method during the month they became pregnant. Among those women, 76% of pill users and 49% of condom users reported using the methods inconsistently, while 13% of pill users and 14% of condom users reported correct use (AGI).
- 8% of women having abortions have never used a method of birth control (AGI).
- 9 in 10 women at risk of unintended pregnancy are using a contraceptive method (AGI).
- Oral contraceptives, the most widely used reversible method of contraception, carry failure rates of 6 to 8% in actual practice (NAF).
- Condom use confers protection against STIs, but it does not provide top-tier protection from pregnancy because of breakage, slippage, inconsistent use, and low continuation rates (NAF).

ABORTION AND MINORS

- 40% of minors having an abortion report that neither of their parents knew about the abortion (AGI).
- 35 states currently enforce parental consent or notification laws for minors seeking an abortion: AL,AR, AZ, CO, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI , MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC,SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WV, and WY. The Supreme Court ruled that minors must have the alternative of seeking a court order authorizing the procedure (AGI).

ABORTION AND PUBLIC FUNDS

- The U.S. Congress has barred the use of federal Medicaid funds to pay for abortions, except when the woman's life would be endangered by a full-term pregnancy or in cases of rape or incest (AGI).
- 17 states (AK, AZ, CA, CT, HI, IL, MA, MD, MN, MT, NJ, NM, NY, OR, VT, WA and WV) do use public funds to pay for abortions for some poor women. About 14% of all abortions in the United States are paid for with public funds (virtually all from the state) (AGI).

Modern Methods that have been used for Abortion:

1) Cutting the child into pieces and scraping him/her off of the uterus (Dilation and Curettage - "D & C")

2) Vacuuming the child into a jar (Suction Curettage - Vacuum Aspiration)

3) Burning & Poisoning by injection (salt poisoning - saline injection)

4) Throwing the baby away after he/she is removed by hysterotomy or Caesarean section

5) Violent contractions are induced by a "prostaglandin chemical" developed by the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company. The baby is expelled through the birth canal, then allowed to die.

6) The Ru 486 Abortion Pill

7) The partial birth abortion.

Biblical principles that must be applied to the issue of abortion:

1. Children are a gift from God.

a. Psalm 127:3 - *"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."*

b. Jacob said regarding his children: *"The children which God hath graciously given they servant"* (Gen. 33:5)

c. He . . . *"maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord"* (Ps. 113:9)

d. Ruth 4:13 - *"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son."*

2) Conception is an act of God (Ruth 4:13)

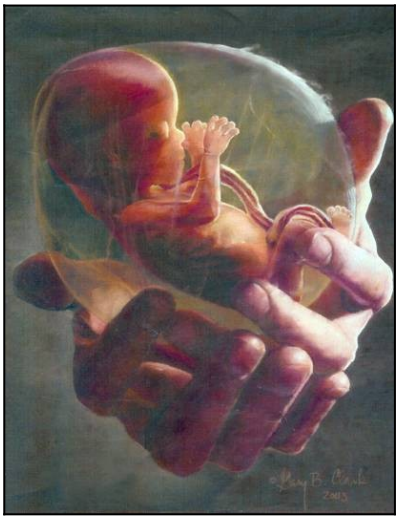
a) The Scripture teaches that God opens the womb and closes the womb

b) The Scripture teaches that God is responsible for life (abortion is the execution of the work of God - Psalm 139).

3) The unborn child is a distinct human life from conception

a) The baby in the womb is alive

(1) The Bible teaches that life begins at conception.



(a) Psalm 51:5 - David was a person and had a sin nature at the moment of conception.

(b) Job 3:11-16 - Job compares (v. 14-15) the state of deceased kings and counselors and princes (i.e., those who had grown to adulthood) with the state of those who died while still in the womb (v. 16).

(c) Luke 1:41 - John the Baptist, while in his mother's womb (at 6 months), was responsive ("the babe leaped in her womb").

(2) Biological Science has confirmed that human life begins at conception.

"As the nuclei of the ovum (female egg) and sperm (male seed) unite during the first hours of fertilization, they bring together 23 chromosomes from the mother and 23 chromosomes from the father (total of 46 - all human adults possess 46). These chromosome sets carry some 15,000 genes from each parent cell.

"In these first quiet hours of human conception, the genes, like letters of a divine alphabet, spell out the unique characteristics of the new individual. The color of the eyes, hair and skin, facial features, body type and certain qualities of personality and intelligence are all determined by this genetic coding.

". . . This quiet, yet sacred, act of conception has produced not a 'potential human being,' but rather a 'human being with vast potential'."
(Gary Bergel, When You Were Formed in Secret, Elyria, Ohio, 1985, p. 1)

The union of the sperm and egg forms a life cell which will then rapidly multiply and develop the features of the baby.

"The cell is the basic structure of all life . . . [upon conception] these cells can give rise to nothing else but a human being. They are human in origin and destiny and cannot be anything else."

(Dr. M.T. Jefferson, Clinical Instructor in Surgery at Boston University)

b) The baby in the womb is a <u>person</u> -
Not a "fetus" or a "mass of tissue" to be thrown out!

Biblical proof:

(1) The personal <u>pronouns</u> used of David and Jeremiah while in the womb -
"Thou hast covered (formed) <u>me</u> in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13)
"Before I formed <u>thee</u> in the womb, I knew <u>thee</u>" (Jer. 1:5)

(2) The child in the womb is both <u>body</u>, <u>soul</u>, and <u>spirit</u> (See: Traducian view of the propagation of the soul/spirit)

c) The baby in the womb is <u>known</u> by God
(Jer. 1:5; Psalm 139:13-15; Luke 1:41-44; Gal. 1:15).

d) The baby in the womb is <u>developed</u> by God
(Jer. 1:5; Psalm 94:9, 139:13-16; Is. 49:1, 5)

Psalm 139:13-18 -

1) God <u>forms</u> the child's body parts (v. 13 - *"possess"* = to form; *"reins"* = inner parts)

2) God <u>joins</u> each body part together (*"covered"* = to weave)

3) God <u>sees</u> the child's development (v. 15-16a)

4) God <u>plans</u> the child's development (v. 16) (Ps. 94:9 - *"He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?")*

Even those with mental problems or physical deformities are formed for God's glory (Exod. 4:11; John 9:1-3)

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

(cp. II Cor. 4:7)

*<u>Mental problems</u> or <u>physical deformations</u> are no excuse for abortion (Exod. 4:11).

*God allows such deformities for His own glory (John 9:1-3).

e) To kill a baby while in the womb is murder!

God's command against murder (Exod. 20:13).
God's description of a murder (Exod. 21:22-23):

(1) Note: Context describes murder both premeditated (v. 12) and not premeditated (v. 13-14).

(2) Exod. 21:22 - "child" = Hebrew word "yelel" - this same word is used to describe a child whether in the womb or out of it.
"Fruit" - a reference to the unborn child (cp. Psalm 127:3)
"Depart" - to come out or fall out (cp. this word in Gen. 25:25-26)
Exod. 21:23 - "Mischief" - any injury or death (cp. Gen. 42:4, 38). The point is, if the mother miscarries and the child dies, "then thou shalt give life for life" (of the child that dies).
God's command: Capitol punishment for the murderer of the unborn (cp. Gen. 9:6; Rom. 13:1, 4; Acts 25:11).

4) God is compassionate toward the helpless, defenseless, and the weak
". . . do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy. Rid them out of the hand of the wicked" (Psalm 82:3-4)
The womb is a place of peace, rest, security, etc., and men are invading that abode of protection.

5) Taking life is the prerogative of God
(Deut. 32:39; I Sam. 2:6)

6) Child discrimination is sin
(Note: God's value of young children - Mt. 18:10, 19:13-14)

7) God hates hands that shed innocent blood
(Prov. 6:17; 24:11, 12) (no one is more innocent than an unborn child)
To shed innocent blood for money is the height of abominations (Deut. 29:25).

8) Child sacrifice defiles a country
(Lev. 18:21; Num. 35:33; Psalm 106:38; Gen. 4:10; II Ki. 24:4; Amos 1:13).

9) God requires blood, when blood is shed
(*Num. 35:33; Gen. 42:22; II Sam. 4:11).

Abortion is nothing but selfishness.

1) Abortion is used to cover-up illicit immoral relationships (i.e. to protect one's reputation, etc.)

2) Abortion is used to remove unwanted "distractions" or "hindrances" from selfish pursuits.
*To abort a child so as to not lose your figure or freedom is the highest act of lovelessness and selfishness.

Thought Provoking Statements:

--Abortion: "The American Holocaust"

--"Save the bald eagle eggs" -- kill the unborn humans

--Can you trust a doctor whose conscience is not bothered by aborting babies, to deliver your baby?