

Series: Citizens of Heaven: Social Issues and the Sacred Mind
Title: SANCTITY OF PERSONHOOD: VALUE SET IN HEAVEN
Text: Exodus 21:22-25; Luke 1:24, 26, 39-45

Citizens of Heaven: Social Issues and the Sacred Mind

Preface of love and hope

- In no way do I wish to be insensitive to the hearts, souls and minds of those who are listening.
- I realize that some are relentless in their belief that life is at fertilization
- I realize that some are relentless in their belief on the choice being the mothers

I ask that you simply hear an analysis of the Biblical point of view alongside the world's point of view.

DEFINITIONS: Positions

- Secular
- Spiritual
- Self
- Science
- Society
- State
- Sacred

Secular

- atheist / nonspiritual

Spiritual

- holds to some form of soul or spirit and purpose and meaning

Self

- Regardless of theistic standing, one's self-decision rules over any other element and needs not be discussed.
- Religiously entrenched regardless of any other information

Science

- What knowledge we have to date is based upon examination using the scientific method.
- Knowledge is increasing as discoveries are made, yet science speaks to what has been discovered to date.

Society

- The electorate, the politicians, the media, television and movies, social media platforms, and education centers.
- The perceived majority, the promoted majority

State

- Constitutional grounding
- Constitutional means for establishing law
- Federal law
- State law
- Judicial decisions

Sacred

- Grounded in the meaning of the texts that the faith holds true
- Is not interpreted by the emotions of the follower but by the meaning of the texts that were given authoritatively by God.

We need to look at terms such as life, personhood, soul, breath and development stages of that life from zygote to birth and beyond.

DEFINITION: LIFE

The condition that distinguishes animals and plants from inorganic matter, including the capacity for growth, reproduction, functional activity, and continual change preceding death.

- If we look at science, we then can regard the preborn as living and a life form based upon scientific criteria.
- Yet Life is not truly the issue here. A plant is alive, a mold is alive.

When pressed and discussed every group will believe that life begins at fertilization.

The defining point must be when “personhood” begins.

DEFINITIONS: PERSONHOOD

- **Moral personhood**
- **Metaphysical Personhood**
- **Legal Personhood**
- **Sacred Personhood**

Moral personhood - moral agents.

- Nonhuman animals, such as dogs, cats, birds, and fish, are commonly held not to be moral agents and not moral persons.

Metaphysical Personhood

- Secular - rational, moral agents, using language,
- Spiritual – the Soul

Physical Personhood

- Materialists or physicalists believe that a human being is essentially a physical being, with no metaphysically distinct soul or mind.

Legal Personhood

- Individuals can be considered as a unit, an actor, a legal person.

Sacred Personhood

- We will look at this today

WHEN DOES PERSONHOOD BEGINS

Eternal	Brain
Relations	Fully Formed
Conception	2nd Trimester
1st Trimester	Viability
Heartbeat	3rd Trimester
Blood Flow	Birth

	Secular	Spiritual	Self	Science	Society	State	Sacred
Eternal	-	X	-X	-	-X	-	-X
Relations	-X	-X	-X	-	-X	-	-X
Conception	-X	-X	-X	-	-X	-	-X
1st Trimester	-X	-X	-X	-	-X	-X	-X
Heartbeat	-X	-X	-X	-	-X	-X	-X
Blood Flow	-X	-X	-X	-	-X	-X	-X
Brain	-X	-X	-X	-	-X	-X	-X
Fully Formed	-X	-X	-X	-	-X	-X	-X
2nd Trimester	-X	-X	-X	-	-X	-X	-X
Viability	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X
3rd Trimester	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X
Birth	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X	-X

-x = some do and some don't

- Secular, Science, and State do not see Eternal
- Science does not see it until Viability and

Eternal - known before the Earth was created – soul known by God
 "...before you were in your mother's womb..."

Relations –

Two shall become One – They are one and meant to come together to create One soul

Conception/ when fertilized

12hrs- 24 hours

Sperm can wait 5 days – egg to be in the fallopian tube

1st trimester 0 - 12 wks

Zygote

Div. 2cell= 24-30 hrs - 23male and 23 female chromosomes are present

Div. 4cell= 45 hrs

Div. 16 cells – 3 days

Embryo

Implantation - 6-9 days - embryo

Heartbeat – 5 -6wks

Blood flow- End of fifth week

Brain begins to form- neurons and synapses begin to develop - 5 weeks

Fetus – 8wks

Arms, feet, fingers and toes fully formed at 8 weeks

Feels pain – 8wks

- sentient

Fully formed, (blood flow) after the three months - 10th week

- Circulatory, digestive, urinary systems fully developed

Brain takes control – 12 weeks

2nd trimester 12 - 24wks

The Face

Flipping and turning

Genitalia – 20 weeks

Hair

Prints – 21-24 wks

Responds to sound

Hearing – 24 wks

Viability

22-24 weeks

- **26 weeks.** As a fetus reaches its last week of the second trimester, the odds for viability are between **86 and 89 percent.**
- **25 weeks.** Fetuses at 25 weeks have around a **67 to 76** percent chance of viability.
- **24 weeks.** Doctors typically consider the 24-week mark to be the point of potential viability, though at that age, survival is still far from guaranteed.
 - Fetal viability at 24 weeks ranges from **42 to 59** percent, according to ACOG.
 - But some studies have found the chances for survival to run as high as **68 percent.**
 - This is improving with every scientific advancement
- **23 weeks.** Babies born at 23 weeks typically have a **23 to 27** percent chance for survival.
- **22 weeks or earlier.** The chances of viability before 23 weeks is **low** — about 5 to 6 percent.

3rd trimester 24 - 40wks

Gains weight

See and hear 29 -32 wks

All but lungs well developed 30 wks

Birth-

37-42 weeks early to late delivery

Sacred (Scriptural) View of Personhood (First Principles)

God's Kingdom calls for care for all lives and persons

God's Kingdom says Science and Sacred are connected

God's Kingdom calls for care for all lives and persons

- Personal liberty according to God's Word - Two lives
- Personhood according to God's Word - Two lives
- Prenatal according to God's Word Two lives
- Poverty care according to God's Word -All lives
- Wellbeing according to God's Word - All lives
- Jurisprudence and prisoner care according to God's Word - All lives
- End of life care according to God's Word - All lives
- Eternity according to God's Word
 - All lives will find a place in heaven or in hell

God's Kingdom says Science and Sacred are Connected

- God is the Creator and good Science declares it
- Personal faith in a belief cannot override God's Facts shown through good and fair science.

Today my goal is to give Scriptural understanding related to when Personhood Begins

The Scriptures

Old Testament - Hebrew

New Testament- Greek

What we have is what was meant

Old Testament – pulled together by Ezra and the Great Assembly 450 BC

- **Tanakh**, an acronym derived from the names of the three divisions of the Hebrew Bible: Torah (Instruction, or Law, also called the Pentateuch), Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings).
- **Ezra** - Ezra was living in Babylon when in the seventh year of Artaxerxes I, king of Persia (c. 457 BCE). The king sent him to Jerusalem to teach the laws of God to any who did not know them.
- According to the Talmud, much of the Tanakh was compiled by the men of the Great Assembly (Anshei K'nesset HaGedolah), a task completed in **450 BCE**, and it has remained unchanged ever since.
- **Septuagint** – The earliest extant Greek translation of the Old Testament from the original Hebrew.

New Testament

- All documents written by 80-100 AD
- The New Testament has been preserved in more manuscripts than any other ancient work of literature, with over 5,800 complete or fragmented Greek manuscripts catalogued, 10,000 Latin manuscripts and 9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages including Syriac, Slavic, Gothic, Ethiopic, Coptic and Armenian
- Collected by the churches and passed among them. The ones that rose to the top among the churches and fulfilled certain criteria related to Christ were held to be sacred and canonized.

Here are the Verses that are related to this topic and they describe words, thoughts, and actions all along the timeline.

We cannot hold to ONE passage... but look to ALL passages

Before conception

Ephesians 1:4 - *...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will...*

Conception

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.”*

This is my personal View

- Before - **terem**:
 - not yet, ere, before that
 - of the field before it was in the earth,
 - herb of the field had yet sprouted for
- Formed - **yatsar**:
 - to **form, fashion**
 - Before I formed you. Fashioned you, a potter and the clay, before I devised you, earthen, frame, maker, potter, purpose
 - Probably identical with yatsar (through the squeezing into shape); ((compare yatsa')); to mould into a form; especially as a potter; figuratively, to determine (i.e. Form a resolution) -- X earthen, fashion, form, frame, make(-r), potter, purpose.

Zygote - 30 hours to 8-9 days - Embryo – 9 DAYS

Psalms 139:16 - *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.*

- There is no word in the Hebrew for a Zygote –we have this distinction with modern science
- Embryo - Hebrew – *golem - implantation*
- My [substance being] yet unformed
- He sees – when there were none of them
- He sees the unformed substance – when there was none of them
- He sees the days that are for me when there were none
- He sees His book where the days are written when there were none

Fetus – 6-8 weeks

Ecclesiastes 11:5 - *As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a (pregnant) woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.*

- ka·'ă·šā·mîm – **bones grow** – **begins 6 weeks**
- bə·ḇe·ṭen - the womb

- ham·mā·lē·'āh – pregnant with child

Fully Formed – 8 weeks

Job 21:15 Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?

- Arms and legs = 8 wks
- Circulatory and blood flow – 10 weeks
- Brain takes over – 12 weeks
- Fashioned, formed, shaped

(The Soul) – end of tenth week

Psalm 139:13-14 ESV

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

- Inward parts are being knitted
- The soul knows it
- **Hebrew word for this stage of pregnancy is Nephel**

Genesis 2:7 ESV *Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed (nephesh – soul) into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

- God's breathed life and spirit and he became a living creature
- This is the first and may be a reference that all mankind from this point forward were living souls at conception.
- The Jewish Word from ancient times *Nephel* speaks of the fetus – soul formed – **end of 10th week?**

***Kenaphel* - the untimely birth that dies, abortion, or miscarriage**

Miscarriages – before 12 weeks

13-19 weeks – 1 to 5 in 100

First and second trimester before 24 weeks

- Miscarriages are usually caused by abnormal chromosome patterns in the fetus.
 - When these abnormalities are detected, the growth is halted, and miscarriage is the result.
 - In other instances, miscarriages are caused by uterine malformations, hormonal abnormalities, problems with the immune system, chronic infections, and illnesses.
- The Bible mentions in the context of blessings and cursings upon Israel.
 - In Exodus 23:26, Israel is promised that “none will miscarry or be barren in your land” if they followed the Mosaic Covenant.
 - Conversely, in Hosea 9:14, Israel in a state of disobedience is promised “wombs that miscarry / and breasts that are dry.”
- We learn from these passages that spontaneous miscarriages are in God's hands.
- We are no longer under the Law, and we can be sure that God has compassion on those who have suffered a miscarriage.
- He cries and suffers with us, simply because He loves us and feels our pain.

Job 3:16 - Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light?

- hidden stillborn child - kə·nê·p̄el miscarriage (nephel the soul)
- as infants - *olel* or *olal*: a child –
 - 1 Sam. 15:3 man and woman child and infant
 - Child - *mê·'ō·lê*
 - Infant – nursing - *yō·w·nêq* –a suckling
- The *nephel* is called a suckling – **end of 10th week**

Psalms 58:8 - Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime, like the stillborn child who never sees the sun.

- *Nepel* – soul fetus

Ecclesiastes 6:3 - If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he.

- Begets - Hundred children - *yalad*: to bear, bring forth, beget
- *kannapel* – miscarriage / cast out

All before 2nd trimester

Gender – 20 Weeks

Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female** he created them.

- Chromosomal expression established

Child in the Womb – 24-40 weeks

Exodus 21:22-25

²²“When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her **children come out,**”

Child – thousands of references

- **Ben** – son – 4940
- **bāḥûr** – young man – 45x
- *almah* - a young woman, a virgin 6x
- *yeled* - **Yeled**- child inside and outside the womb (from 24 weeks)

Infant / baby / suckling / offspring

- *na'ar* - **(238x)** - young man (76x), servant (54x), child (44x), lad (33x), young (15x), children (7x), youth (6x), babe (1x), boys (1x), young (1x).

Infant

- מוֹלֶדֶת *Moledeth* - - kindred, birth, offspring – **at birth**

Suckling

- *yānaq* – 32x – nursing child

- *chalab* – milk - 1 חָלָב Samuel 7:9 sucking lamb (for sacrifice); but also of human beings גְּמוּלֵי חָלָב Isaiah 28:9 weaned from milk (עֲתִיקֵי מִשְׁדֵּי חָלָב)

Offspring

- *Zera* - (1), child (1), children (3), descendant (3), descendants, offspring (38), offspring's offspring (1), origin (1), posterity (1), race (1), seed (48), seedtime (1), seminal (4), seminal* (1), son* (1), time (1), what you sow (1). – 205X

Birth

Psalms 22:9-10 - ⁹ *Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.* ¹⁰ *From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.*

The Hebrew Language even has terms for the

Infant who dies

- יָמִים Isaiah 65:20 *a suckling of (a few) days*;
 - No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,

Child of incest

- *mamzēr* - bastard, child of incest, illegitimate child

Yeladeyha - Children Exodus 21:22 an ordinary word for children is used

- It regularly refers to children who are born and never to one miscarried.
- The child in the pregnant woman's womb was considered a child, not embryo

TWO PASSAGES MUST FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING

Exodus 21:22-25

²² *“When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her **children come out**, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine.* ²³ *But if **there is harm**, then you shall pay life for life,* ²⁴ *eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,* ²⁵ *burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

Premature birth of a Child

- wə·yā·ṣə·'ū – prematurely (root yatsa -to come out)
- yə·lā·de·hā, - yeled – child (**end of tenth week**)

Yeladeyha - Children

Exodus 21:22 an ordinary word for children is used

- It regularly refers to children who are born and never to one miscarried.
- The child in the pregnant woman's womb was considered a child

This passage is not the miscarriage of, and not *golem* – miscarriage of embryo

Nor does it use the terms for casting out the *nephel* – fetus

It is the talking about premature harm to the mother OR THE CHILD

1. There is a Hebrew verb for miscarry or lose by abortion or be bereaved of the fruit of the womb, namely, ***shakal***. It is used nearby in Exodus 23:26, "**None shall miscarry (*meshakelah*) or be barren in your land.**" But this word is NOT used here in Exodus 21:22-25.

2. Rather the word for birth here is "**go forth**" (*ytsa'*). "And if her children go forth . . ." This verb never refers to a miscarriage or abortion. When it refers to a birth it refers to live children "going forth" or "coming out" from the womb. For example, Genesis 25:25, "And the first came out (*wyetsa'*) red, all of him like a hairy robe; and they called his name Esau." (See also v. 26 and Genesis 38:28-30.)

So, the word for miscarry is not used but a word is used that elsewhere does not mean miscarry but ordinary live birth.

3. There are words in the Old Testament that designate the embryo (*golem*, Psalm 139:16) or the untimely birth that dies (*nephel*, Job 3:16; Psalm 58:8; Ecclesiastes 6:3).

But these words are not used here.

4. Rather an ordinary word for children is used in Exodus 21:22 (***yeladeyha***). It regularly refers to children who are born and never to one miscarried. "**Yeled only denotes a child**, as a fully developed human being, and not the fruit of the womb before it has assumed a human form" (Keil and Delitzsch, Pentateuch, vol. 2, p. 135).

5. Verse 22 says, "[If] her children go forth and there is no injury . . ." It does not say, "[If] her children go forth and there is no further injury . . ." (NASB, 1972 edition; corrected in the 1995 update). The word "further" is not in the original text.

The writer could very easily have inserted the Hebrew *lah* to specify the woman

- ("If her children go forth and there is no injury to her . . .").
- But it is left general. There is no reason to exclude the children.

Likewise in verse 23 when it says, "But if there was injury . . ." it does not say "to the woman," as though the child were not in view.

- Again, it is general and most naturally means, "If there was injury (to the child or to the mother)."

Any Harm to mother or child – personhood equal to the man!!!!

- 'ā-sō·wn – harm / any harm
- Life for life

Even if it was a miscarriage of a fetus, does it justify abortion?

- It is an accidental injury
- A penalty reveals that it is wrong for the preborn to die
- The Law of Moses does not require death for accidental deaths
- The lesser penalty if no harm comes when the babe is born is not a denial of its humanity or personhood

Sanhedrin 57b:5 450BC Ezra – EARLIST WRITINGS

The fetus is a person

In the name of Rabbi Yishmael it was said: [A Noachide may be put to death] even for the killing of a fetus. (10 weeks) What is Rabbi Yishmael's source?

For it is written, "One who spills the blood of a person, by another person, shall have his own blood spilled."

The Didache – 70AD

"The second commandment of the teaching: You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not seduce boys. You shall not commit fornication. You shall not steal. You shall not practice magic. You shall not use potions. You shall not procure [an] abortion, nor destroy a newborn child" (Didache 2:1–2 [A.D. 70]).

Greek NT

John and Jesus in Womb

Luke 1:24, 26, 39-45

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

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!"

- **Elizabeth**
- **At 6 months baby named and responded to the presence of Christ**
- **The Spirit fills the mother at the presence of Christ**
- **Mary is newly pregnant in her visit**
 - The BABY leaped v. 41, 44
 - **brephos**: an unborn or a newborn child (the same)
 - Usage: infant, babe, child in arms.
 - **at 6 months – he is viewed as a person**
 - **a fetus**
 - *Fetus* is a Latin word that means "the bearing, bringing forth, or hatching of young." (Equal to the born child)
 - For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
 - Mother of My Lord
 - And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

The LORD was present

- May be viewed that this newly conceived zygote shows complete personhood of Jesus. (I can see this)
- I can also see that that Jesus in the womb, **as an embryo** was fully man ... but also **fully God**
 - It is a fetus at the end of the 10th week
 - So, Jesus was an embryo that brought the Holy spirit into Elizabeth and John at 6 months to leap.
 - Is Jesus unique in this that the presence of God is known in that moment regardless of the human development.

SACRED (Scriptural) VIEWS

Biblically Clear

Eternal - always

Fertilization – 12-24 hours

- Eternal view of the spirit – if God saw then the creation is of Value
- At first life – fertilization 12-24 hours – Luke 1 – Jesus

SACRED (Scriptural) VIEWS

Biblically Unclear (a stretch)

The soul – 10th week

The child – 24th week

- If one views the **eternal** view is not seen as personhood evidence but that the verses show God's understanding and knowledge as we develop **toward Personhood**
- **And**, if one chooses to see Jesus as **the exception**

Then one might see personhood at the entrance of the soul - Nephel

Then one might see personhood when the soul becomes a child in the womb - Yalad

- *Nephel* - **entrance of the soul** – (a fetus) end of 10th week
- *Yalad* – 24 weeks – Exodus 21 - a child is viewed as a person
 - 6 months – **John in the womb** - 26 weeks (viability)
- After 6 months (Third Trimester) - no

The Only Exception - The Life of a Mother

- *Rodef* – one who pursues the life of another
- The fetus is a *rodef* who pursues the life of a mother and may be terminated

Mother's Choice – This position is not biblical... as a citizen of heaven and follower of Christ

SCRIPTURAL DEFINITION MUST DETERMINE YOUR POSITION ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND EARTHLY MATTERS

**Two persons / There is a person in there.
Kindness Care, Concern, Comfort, Counsel**

Prayer

- May our positions be biblical, and hearts be loving