

Issues Facing the Church

# ABORTION

PSALMS 139 & EXODUS 1:8-12

Text:

Introduction:

With the exception of homosexuality and gay marriage, no other issue stirs the heart and blood of people more than abortion. Abortion has become one of the most persistently debated topics in America. There are those who are staunchly pro-life or pro-choice. Few people do not have an opinion concerning abortion.

Note:

Who Has Abortions?

Fifty-two percent of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25: Women aged 20-24 obtain 33 percent of all abortions, and teenagers obtain 19 percent.

Black women are more than 3 times as likely as white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are 2 1/2 times as likely.

Forty-three percent of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 27 percent identify themselves as Catholic.

Two-thirds of all abortions are among never-married women.

Over 60 percent of abortions are among women who have had 1 or more children.

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 2/3 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.

There are many passages of scripture which do not deal specifically with the word “abortion”, but does apply in principle and practice.

Notice:

***Leviticus 18:21***

<sup>21</sup> *And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.*

**Jeremiah 32:35**

<sup>35</sup> *And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.*

**Psalm 139:1**

<sup>1</sup> *O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.*

**Psalm 139:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> *For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.* <sup>14</sup> *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.* <sup>15</sup> *My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.* <sup>16</sup> *Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

**Exodus 20:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Thou shalt not kill.*

In the Hebrew language, there are 7 words which can be translated, "to kill." The one used here in the sixth commandment was chosen by God with great

specificity. It speaks uniquely to killing of an innocent person. It speaks primarily to premeditated murder.

Though there are those who think the problem of abortion is a relatively new or a 40 year old problem, but actually it began long ago.

Note:

Read Exodus 1:8-16

### **Exodus 1:8-16**

<sup>8</sup> Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. <sup>9</sup> And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we: <sup>10</sup> Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. <sup>11</sup> Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: <sup>14</sup> And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, *was* with rigour. <sup>15</sup> And the king of Egypt spake to the

Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one *was* Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: <sup>16</sup> And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live.

Notice:

## **1. THE POLICY OF A GREAT GOVERNMENT**

Not every leader placed in a position of authority is a godly leader. Such was the case here.

The Egyptians had misgivings about the Israelites after the death of Joseph, thus resulting in this new Pharaoh launched a plan of action to provide national security for his people.

Because of the policy we see:

### **A. Pharaoh's Dread (vs. 8-12)**

#### **Exodus 1:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. <sup>9</sup> And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we: <sup>10</sup> Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our

enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. <sup>11</sup> Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

Pharaoh did not honor or respect the contributions of Joseph and his people. He was afraid that these people would repossess the land from them. He addresses his people and lays out a plan to keep the Hebrews in check.

In verses 13-15 we see:

### B. Pharaoh's Deception

#### ***Exodus 1:13-15***

*<sup>13</sup> And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: <sup>14</sup> And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour. <sup>15</sup> And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:*

He charted a course of deception. As they had been deceived, they would now deceive. He would deal shrewdly with them. He played upon the peoples fear.

The Egyptians response was to afflict and pressure the people. In doing so they could eliminate their enemies.

Note not only Pharaoh's Dread and His Deception but also:

### C. Pharaoh's Decree (vs. 16)

#### ***Exodus 1:16***

<sup>16</sup> *And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.*

Just as Hitler wished to destroy God's chosen people, Pharaoh conducted a diabolical plan of death and destruction.

First, he would enslave and work them cruelly.

Second, he would deprive them of children by killing their male sons at birth. When this did not happen, he would have their newborn sons thrown into the Nile River to appease their god.

This was a time of ethnic cleansing. Ethnic cleansing can be used for a particular peoples, culture or age group. Pharaoh chose to do it through the genocide of the male Hebrew babies. In the Egyptians mind, it became a matter of national security for them.

Pharaoh desired to afflict as much pain and anguish as possible upon the people. He wanted to rob them of their children, their heritage and their future.

Pharaoh is a depiction of Satan who wants our destruction and failure. He inflicts pain because he enjoys it. He wants us to deny our faith.

Since the Supreme Court “legislated” from the bench the landmark Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, there have been over 1.5 million deaths attributed to this landmark decision.

Illustration:

The Freedom of Choice Act is a bill intended to allow the abortion industry to permeate every aspect of society. It was promised by President-elect Obama to be the first piece of legislature he will sign after his inauguration. Here is what FOCA will do. FOCA eliminates regulations that protect women from unsafe abortion clinics. FOCA forces taxpayers to fund abortions. FOCA requires all states to allow “partial birth” and other late-term abortions. FOCA subjects



women to abortions by non-physicians. FOCA violates the conscience rights of nurses, doctors and hospitals. FOCA strips parents of their right to be involved in their minor daughters' abortion decision.

Just as Pharaoh sought the destruction of God's people, Satan wants to kill and destroy lives today. I believe abortion to be a tool of Satan to wreak havoc in men and women's lives.

The guilt of an abortion is tremendous.

Women carry that sorrow and guilt for years.

Notice not only the Policy of a Great Government but also:

## **2. THE PRINCIPLES OF A GODLY PEOPLE (VS. 17-19)**

### ***Exodus 1:17-19***

*<sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. <sup>18</sup> And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? <sup>19</sup> And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.*

Notice the actions of God's people:

A. They Revered God's Law (vs. 17a)

**Exodus 1:17**

*<sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.*

They respected God and did not want to disappoint Him. They had a lofty view of sin and a lofty view of God. Because we were created in the image of God, they had an exalted view and respect for life!

God's Word always precedes man's edicts. It is never wrong to do right...even if it costs us our life. We should never fear if God places His hand upon us but rather fear if He takes His hand off of our lives!

B. The Rejected Man's Law (vs. 17b)

**Exodus 1:17**

*<sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.*

They feared the consequences of disobeying God more than they feared Pharaoh.

They rejected Pharaoh's scheming designs.

## C. They Resisted a Bad Law (vs. 18-19)

### ***Exodus 1:18-19***

*<sup>18</sup> And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? <sup>19</sup> And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.*

We've all heard the expression; "There's more than one way to skin a cat."

One does not have to lie when faced with a moral dilemma. What one believes will always be revealed in what they believe about God.

Illustration:

### Abortionist Says Life Only Matters if It Is Wanted

Ann Furedi, the Chief Executive of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), made her comments during a debate in Oxford last month.

The question, Mrs Furedi argued, was "not, when does human life begin? but, when does it really begin to matter?".

This, she said, could only be weighed up "as being

relative to the woman who is carrying it”.

She admitted that “the embryo is a living thing”, and that it “is clearly human in the sense that it’s not a gerbil”, but stopped short of according it the same status as “a born person”.

She said: “Obviously we couldn’t allow abortion if we accepted that fetal life had the same degree of value as born human life, and I don’t believe that it does.”

She said that modern society required women to be able to plan when they have children, and said: “Abortion stands as a back-up to birth control, and this is very important for us.”

Notice not only the Policy of a Great Government and the Principles of a Godly People but also:

### **3. THE PRAISE OF A GOOD DECISION (VS. 20-22)**

#### ***Exodus 1:20-22***

*<sup>20</sup> Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. <sup>21</sup> And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. <sup>22</sup> And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.*

God honors those who exalt Him. Our focus is to be on honoring Him in obedience.

Note the praise from God.

#### A. The Blessings of God (vs. 20)

##### **Exodus 1:20**

<sup>20</sup> Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

It is noted that God dealt well with the mid-wives. We are not told how He blessed them, only that He did bless them. The ultimate blessings we receive will be when we stand in His presence praising and rejoicing in His glory!

#### B. The Bounty of God (vs. 21)

##### **Exodus 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> *And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.*

It appears that mid-wives did not normally have a family. Perhaps it was because they did not have children they were able to perform their responsibilities. Regardless, God provided them a family.

Close:

A young lady sang the National Anthem to the Colorado House of Representatives on May 8, 2006.

"Before we begin, Representative Harvey has made available for us today Gianna Jessen to sing the national anthem."

Gianna sang the most amazing rendition of The Star Spangled Banner that you could possibly imagine. Every person in the entire chamber was completely still, quiet and in awe of this frail young lady's voice.

Due to her cerebral palsy, Gianna often loses her balance, and shortly after starting to sing she grabbed my arm to stabilize herself, and I could tell that she was shaking. Suddenly, midway through the song, she forgot the words and began to hum and then said, "Please forgive me; I am so nervous." She then immediately began singing again and every House member and every guest throughout the chambers began to sing along with her to give her encouragement and to lift her up.

As I looked around the huge hall I listened to the unbelievable melody of Gianna's voice being accompanied by a choir of over 100 voices. I had chills running all over my body, and I knew that I had just witnessed an act of God.

As the song concluded the speaker of the House explained that Gianna has cerebral palsy and is an activist to bring awareness to the disease. "Let us give her a hand not only for her performance today, but also for her advocacy work," he said. The chamber immediately exploded into applause.

The speaker then called the House to order, and we proceeded as usual to allow members to make any announcements or introductions of guests.

As I waited for my turn, I nervously paced back and forth praying to God that he would give me the peace, confidence and the courage necessary to pull off what I knew would be one of the most dramatic and controversial moments of my political career.

Finally, I was the last person remaining. So, I proceeded to the microphone and began my speech.

Members, I would like to introduce you to a new friend and hero of mine -- her name is Gianna Jessen. She is visiting us today from Nashville, Tennessee, where she is an accomplished recording artist.

She has cerebral palsy and was raised in foster homes before being adopted at the age of four. She was born prematurely and weighed only 2 pounds at birth. She remained in the hospital for almost three months. A

doctor once said she had a great will to live and that she fought for her life. Eventually she was able to leave the hospital and be placed in foster care.

Because of her cerebral palsy, her foster mother was told that it was doubtful that she would ever crawl or walk. She could not sit up independently. Through the prayers and dedication of her foster mother, she eventually learned to sit up, crawl, then stand. Shortly before her fourth birthday, she began to walk with leg braces and a walker.

She continued in physical therapy and after a total of four surgeries, she was able to walk without assistance.

She still falls sometimes, but she says she has learned how to fall gracefully after falling for 29 years.

Two years ago, she walked into a local health club and said she wanted a private trainer. At the time her legs could not lift 30 pounds. Today she can leg press 200 pounds.

She became so physically fit that she began running marathons to raise money and awareness for cerebral palsy. She just returned last week from England where she ran in the London Marathon. It took her more than eight-and-a-half hours to complete. They were taking down the course by the time she made it to the finish line. But she made it, nonetheless. With bloody feet



and aching joints, she finished the race.

Members would you help me recognize a modern-day hero -- Gianna Jessen?

At this point the chamber exploded into applause which lasted for 15-to-20 seconds. Gianna had touched their souls.

Ironically, Alice Madden, the majority leader and sponsor of the Planned Parenthood resolution, walked over to Gianna and congratulated her.

As the applause began to die down, I raised my hand to be recognized one more time.

Mr. Speaker, members, if you would allow me just a few more moments I would appreciate your time.

My name is Ted Harvey, not Paul Harvey, but, please, let me tell you the rest of the story.

The cause of Gianna's cerebral palsy is not because of some biological freak of nature, but rather the choice of her mother.

You see when her biological mother was 17-years-old and 7-and-a-half months pregnant, she went to a Planned Parenthood clinic to seek a late-term abortion. The abortionist performed a saline abortion on this 17-

year-old girl. This procedure requires the injection of a high concentration of saline into the mother's womb, which the fetus is then bathed in and swallows, which results in the fetus being burned to death, inside and out. Within 24 hours the results are normally an induced, still-born abortion.

As Gianna can testify, the procedure is not always 100 percent effective. Gianna is an aborted late-term fetus who was born alive. The high concentration of saline in the womb for 24 hours resulted in a lack of oxygen to her brain and is the cause of her cerebral palsy. Members, today, we are going to recognize the 90th anniversary of Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood..." BANG! The gavel came down.

Just as I was finishing the last sentence of my speech -- the climax of the morning -- the speaker of the House gavelled me down and said, "Representative Harvey, I will allow you to continue your introduction, but not for the purposes of debating a measure now pending before the House."

At which point I said, "Mr. Speaker, I understand. I just wanted to put a face to what we are celebrating today."