

Abortion (II)

Habakkuk – why does God not react?

Some ask same questions about U.S.

- Does God care?
- What will He do?
- When will He do it?

History repeats same sins over and over.

I. Abandoning God's Standard – Ec.7:29

It's not God's fault

1. People deny God's existence, creation, character, and revelation
2. When people deny objective standard...
 - Become autonomous
 - Replace God's revelation with popular skeptical / atheistic views
 - “Downgrade” – Ps.9:17; Prov.14:34

Subjective feelings = new standard

- Ep.4:14, that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.

Subjective feelings = new standard

- Ep.4:14
- Col.2:8, Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Subjective feelings = new standard

- Ep.4:14
- Col.2:8
- 2 Pt.2:18, For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.

Subjective feelings = new standard

- Ep.4:14
- Col.2:8
- 2 Pt.2:18
- Ro.1:18-32

Culture crash follows truth crash

I. Abandoning God's Standard – Ec.7:29

II. Ancient Attitudes Persist

Egypt

- Ex.1-2, Pharaoh is god
 - Rejects true God
 - Israelites are slaves
 - Slaves must murder boy babies...

Israel

- Later duplicated Egyptian sins
 - Ahaz: 2 Kings 16:3 – son through fire...
 - Manasseh: 2 Kings 21:6 – son through fire...

Rome

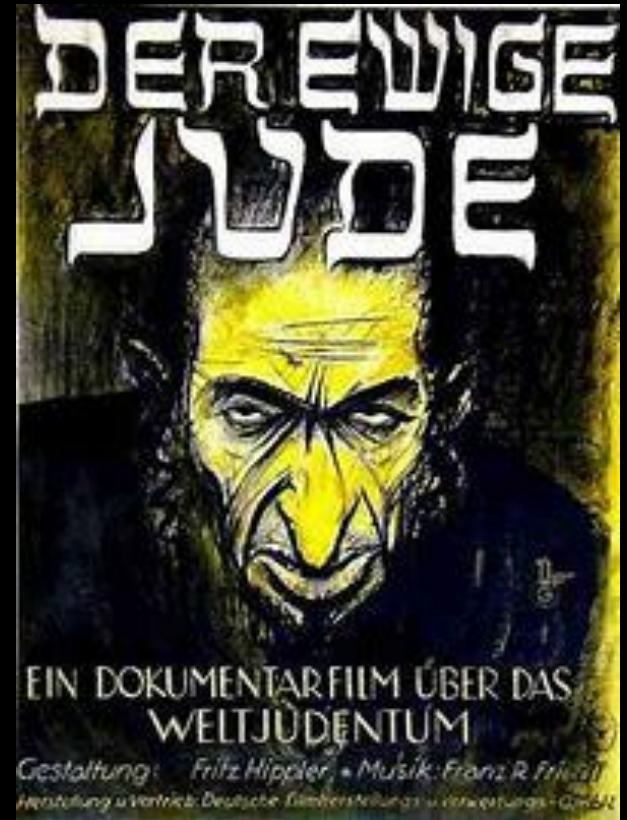
- After Punic Wars (146 BC) breakdown of family had begun.
 - Vedius Pollio
 - Hilarion
 - Patria Potestas: father had right to kill wives and children
- Christians began caring for poor, sick, abandoned.

Rome

‘These impious Galileans (*Christians*) not only feed their own, but ours also; welcoming them with their agapē, they attract them, as children are attracted with cakes... Whilst the pagan priests neglect the poor, the hated Galileans devote themselves to works of charity, and by a display of false compassion have established and given effect to their pernicious errors. Such practice is common among them, and causes contempt for our gods’ – *Epistle to Pagan High Priests* – Julian, d. 363

Germany

- Propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels –
 - Speeches
 - Radio
 - Papers
 - Music (Wagner)
 - Art (depicted subhumans)
- Today: TV, internet, twitter...
brainwashing by repetition
- Pro.4:23



U.S.

- Senate rejected Sasse bill forbidding murder of botched abortion babies.
- Why is Kermit Gosnell still in prison?
- 2 Tim.3:13
- History repeats in U.S. day by day...

Christians

- Estimated 6000 by AD 60; 32 million by AD 350?
- Gospel had taken over the world
- With victory came prosperity, popularity, apostasy
 - Empiricism**: we know only what we see
 - Darwinism**: what we see: 'science' is new god

‘We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health & life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no manner how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door’ –R. Lewonti

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Modern times

- For those who want religious assurance...
 - “One thing the Bible does not say is ‘Thou shalt not abort’” (Roy Bowen Ward, cited by Planned Parenthood Federation of America)
 - Does it say, “Thou shalt not kill infants? ... teenagers? ... wife??”

I. Abandoning God's Standard – Ec.7:29

II. Ancient Attitudes Persist

**III. Arguments To
Justify Abortion**

Gen.2:7

“Adam did not become alive until God breathed life into him; since baby doesn't breathe until he leave womb, baby has no soul; can be killed without guilt”

- Not parallel. Adam had NO life until God breathed into him. The pre-born is alive and growing from conception
- Baby in womb gets oxygen through umbilical cord.

“The fact that a fetus depends on the placenta for life and can’t survive independently doesn’t nullify its existence as a human being. A diabetic is wholly dependent on insulin, but that doesn’t make him less human” – Dr. Bernard Nathanson.

- **N**ot breathing. The pre-born is alive and growing from conception
- Baby in womb gets oxygen through umbilical cord.

“Cancerous uterus or tubal pregnancy: let both die?”

- Dr. operates to save life – to save mom – not to kill baby.
- If baby dies, it is unintentional.
 - Mother and baby are drowning... if save one, have you murdered the other?
- Thomas Murphy Goodwin

“What about rape or incest?”

- Less than 1% of abortions because of rape, incest, deformity, threat to mom's life.
- Judges declare death penalty for rapists and murderers cruel and inhumane . . .
 - but applaud death penalty for innocent baby in womb.

“What about birth control?”

- If it prevents conception, it is not abortion.
- If it causes miscarriage, it is abortion.

“It’s my body to do with as I see fit”

- So say suicide bombers
- Woman has appendectomy...part of her body
- Children in the womb –
 - 50% are males
 - Different blood types
 - Unique genetic fingerprints
 - Two bodies
- US law prosecutes for ‘double murders’
 - Scott Peterson
 - Car wreck

Faulty premise
– 1 Co.6:19-20

“You can’t regulate morality”

- All laws regulate morality.
 - Shoot congressman?
 - Stab abortion doctor?
 - Bludgeon believer in abortion?
- All murderers should be punished.

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

1. “We shouldn’t force our view on others”

- May I kill a three year old?
- Aren’t you trying to force your view on me?

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

2. “Government should not meddle in private,
personal decisions”

- What about personal decision to kill a three year old?
- “I said to myself: ‘All that propaganda you’ve been spewing out about abortion not involving the taking of human life is nonsense. If that thing in the uterus is nothing, why are we spending all this time and money on it?’”

– Dr. Bernard Nathanson

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

3. “Women will go to back-alleges for abortions”
- Assumes unborn is not human.
 - If he is human . . .
 - May I euthanize my three year old in clinic,
or must I go to a back alley?

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

4. “Some women can’t afford another child”

- College children get expensive, too.
- Aged parents? Wives?

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

5. “But what about a woman who was raped?”
 - Also ... let's kill a three year old who reminds his mother she was raped?

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

6. “A fetus cannot make conscious choices.”

- A newborn cannot make conscious choices for months after birth. E.g.: six month old
- U.S. citizens once made same arguments to justify slavery (claimed blacks were not fully human)

Abraham Lincoln on slavery

“You say ‘A’ is white and ‘B’ is black. It is **color**, then: the lighter having the right to enslave the darker? Take care. By this rule, you are a slave to the first man you meet with a fairer skin than your own. – You do not mean color exactly—you mean the whites are **intellectually** the superiors of the blacks, and therefore have the right to enslave them? Take care again: By this rule you are to be a slave to the first man you meet with an intellect superior to your own. – But you say it is a question of **interest**, and, if you can make it your interest, you have the right to enslave another. Very well. And if he can make it his interest, he has the right to enslave you” – *Collected Works of A. Lincoln, II, 222.*

“People argue as though the unborn are not human”

6. “A fetus cannot make conscious choices.”

- A newborn cannot make conscious choices for months after birth. E.g.: six year old
 - If fetus is unwanted and thus subject to death, so is any child . . . or aged parent.
 - If fetal body parts aid adults, what of prisoners' body parts?

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

7. “I’m personally opposed to abortions, but
can’t judge others.”

- “I’m personally opposed to killing pro-choice
people ... the undecided ... abortion doctors,
but I can’t judge those who do.”

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

8. “I’m personally opposed to embryonic stem cell research, but we should conduct research on their bodies afterwards.”
 - “I’m personally opposed to killing slaves and prisoners, but it would be immoral to let that tissue go to waste after they are dead.”

“People argue as though
the unborn are not human”

9. “A fetus is not a baby; I would not kill a baby.”

- Luke 1-2 – continuity from pre-birth to birth.
- “A zygote is the beginning of a new human being” – *The Developing Human*, Keith L. Moore / T. V. N. Persaud, 2.
- Stephen Schwartz uses acronym SLED to clarify

SLED

Size – embryos are smaller than newborns and adults.

Large people more human than small ones?

Men usually larger than women . . . ?

Elephants are larger than people . . . ?

SLED

Size – embryos are smaller than newborns and adults.

Large people? Men? Elephants?

Level of development – embryos are less developed than we are...

5 year old less developed than 15 year old

SLED

Size – embryos are smaller than newborns and adults.

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15 year old more developed than 5 year old

Environment – location has no bearing on who we are.

Move into another house – different person?

An eight inch journey through a birth canal does not change a non-human into a human.

SLED

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Move into another house – different person?

Degree of dependency – if viability makes us human . . .

Some depend on insulin ... pacemaker

Some in coma, on respirator ...

Marist poll

Americans as likely to identify as pro-life as pro-choice: 47 - 47 (February)

Probably reacting to state senates: infanticide

Even pro-choice voters want abortion restricted to first trimester

Media pundits

- Push pro-abortion narratives day after day.
- Righteous indignation finally will subside.
- Only those who immerse themselves in God's word will stay on course.
- 'Sin is a monster of such awful mien that to be hated needs but to be seen, but, alas, too oft' familiar with its face, we first endure, then pity, then embrace.'
- 1 Tim.2:1-2