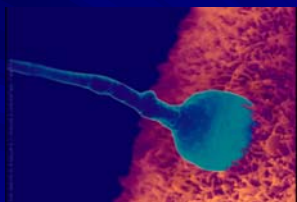


Abortion

slaughter of the innocents

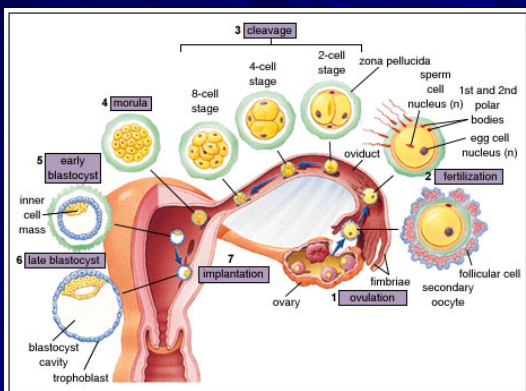


When does human life begins?



When does human life begins?

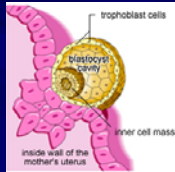
- Conception, fertilisation, chromosomal fusion
- Implantation (6 days)
- Cell differentiation, individualisation (14 days)
- Formed and unformed (28 days)
- Ensoulment (40-90 days)



When does human life begins?

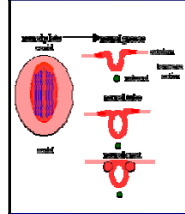
- Human appearance (10 weeks)
- Quickening (16 weeks)
- Sensitivity to pain, nervous system (18 weeks)
- Viability (24-28 weeks)
- Birth (9 months)
- Naming (birth + 1 week)
- Self-conscious, cortical development (? 2 years)

Implantation (six days)



- The uterine lining must respond
- If no response, no implantation
- If no response, the embryo will not develop if implanted
- Implantation begins at day five and completes by day nine

Cell differentiation, individuation (14 days)



- Many in the scientific community believe that human life begins 14 days after conception
- By day 14, the cells of the embryo begins to specialise so that the embryo has a top, bottom, front and back.
- A primitive streak is formed which will develop into the spinal cord and nervous system.
- Other cells begin to separate into foetus, placenta and other supportive tissues.

1 of 3

Cell differentiation, individuation (14 days)

- At 14 days, the possibility of twinning recedes
- prior to 14 days, two embryos can fuse and subsequently develop normally but with four sets of genetic information
- In the triplets, two embryos will have fused so that there is only one +2.
- If one male and one female embryo fused, we get hermaphrodite.

2 of 3

Cell differentiation, individuation (14 days)

- The Warnock Committee's recommendation served as the basis of The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority Act passed in the United Kingdom in 1990
- The 14-day mark is the choice of the Embryo Research Panel of the National Institute of Health (1994)

3 of 3

Formed and unformed (28 days)



- The formation of all body systems and organs is complete after 28 days. The embryo can now be considered 'formed'
- early and medieval church: soul creation
- Lactantius, Jerome, Augustine, Cyril of Alexandria and Thomas Aquinas

Ensoulement (40-90 days)



- Aristotle wrote that the male embryo develops a male soul about 40 days after conception, whereas a female embryo acquires its soul 80 days after conception
- suggested that the early church was influenced by this 'delayed ensoulment' principle and allowed abortion up to 90 days

Ensoulement (40-90 days)

- At 40 days, primitive undeveloped brain waves can be detected.
- High resolution ultrasound-foetus begins to look like a baby.
- In the Jewish rabbinic understanding of the Talmud and subsequent teachings, a developing foetus before 40 days is 'like water'. It is only worthy of consideration after 40 days.

12 weeks



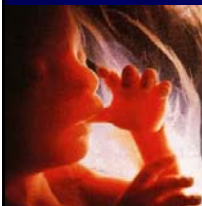
16 weeks



20 weeks



viability (24-28 weeks)



- About 24 weeks, the foetus becomes viable
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines abortion as any product of conception delivered before 28 weeks
- At 26 weeks, the foetus has greater viability and is more developed. Brain wave patterns show waking and sleeping stages

36 weeks



Birth (nine months)



- The Jewish rabbinic commentary regards the foetus to be part of the mother's body and it is only at the moment when the head or the greater part of the breech is delivered that the foetus becomes an individual.
- But it continues to be regarded as a non-souled entity until after 30 days.
- Roman and Stoic stress that there is no soul until birth

Naming after birth

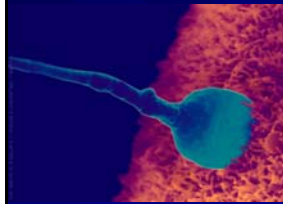
- Jewish children are not named or admitted to the community until after the eighth day and for those who die in the perinatal period (30 days), the rituals of death are not necessary
- No Catholic funeral rites for abortus or still born. The Holy Office in 1713 forbade baptism of a fetus not well formed

Self consciousness, cortical development

- Self consciousness as definition of human life
- Peter Singer
"suggest that a period of 28 days after birth might be allowed before an infant is accepted as having the same right to live as others. This is clearly before the infant will have a sense of its own existence over time..."

Peter Singer, 1994, *Rethinking Life and Death: The Collapse of Our Traditional Ethics* New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 217

What does the Bible says about when human life begins?



- Psalm 139

Psalm 139

- v.14 'for you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb' = the psalmist is already aware at his conception i.e. creation.
- there is continuity between the verses: v. 1 "you have searched me" (the past), v. 2-3, "you know when I sit and when I rise" (the present) and v. 10, "your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast" (the future).
- the whole Psalm 139 speaks of communion between God and the psalmist.
- John Stott concluded that these three words (creation, continuity, communion)

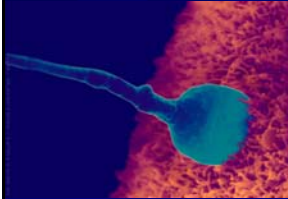
What does the Bible says about when human life begins?



- Psalm 139
- Job 3:11

"Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?" Job 3:11

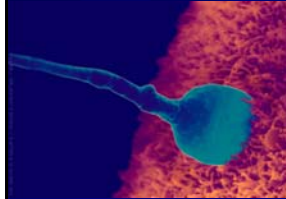
What does the Bible says about when human life begins?



- Psalm 139
- Job 3:11
- Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" Jeremiah 1:5

What does the Bible says about when human life begins?

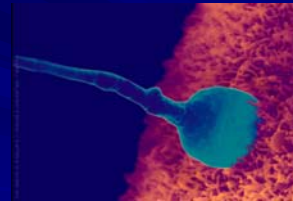


- Psalm 139
- Job 3:11
- Jeremiah 1:5
- Luke 1:39-44.

Luke 1:39-44

- Luke 1:39-44 relates the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth, both of whom were pregnant.
- Elizabeth's baby (John the Baptist) "leaped in her womb" in response to Mary's greeting.
- The case is made here that Luke uses the same word *brephos* for an unborn child (1:41,44) as a newborn baby (2:12,16) and little children brought to Jesus to be blessed by him (18:15).

Human Life begins at conception



Abortion

'as the premature expulsion from the uterus of the products of conception- of the embryo or of a non-viable foetus'

When does human life begins?

- Conception, fertilisation, chromosomal fusion
- Implantation (6 days)
- Cell differentiation, individualisation (14 days)
- Formed and unformed (28 days)
- Ensoulment (40-90 days)

Most abortions are done after 6 weeks



Techniques of Abortion

- Vacuum aspiration
- 'D & C'-Dilation and Curettage
- Toxic solution
- Hysterectomy
- RU 486 with prostaglandin
- 'Morning after' pill
- Partial birth abortion

What does the Bible say about abortion?

Exodus 21:22-25.

"If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise." (NIV)

Interpreting Exodus 21:22-25

- a foetus is not considered to be a fully human person and is therefore of less inherent value than an already born person. Thus the death of a fetus merit a fine while the death or injury to the mother called for the application of *lex talionis*
- verse 22 does not refer to a miscarriage but to a premature birth. Thus causing a premature birth will merit a fine but death of injury to the premature baby or the mother will merit the *lex talionis*.

Biblical Reasons Against Abortion



The Sanctity of Human Life

The Sanctity of Human Life

- Human dignity comes from God
 - We are created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27)
 - our dignity and God's are closely related. "Whosoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed: for God made man in his own image" (Gen 9:6)

The Sanctity of Human Life

- Human dignity comes from God
- All human life have equal dignity
 - 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."

The Sanctity of Human Life

- Human dignity comes from God
- All human life have equal dignity
- Never intentionally take innocent human life
 - sixth commandment "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17)

The Sanctity of Human Life

- Human dignity comes from God
- All human life have equal dignity
- Never intentionally take innocent human life
- Love your neighbour
 - 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength'. The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. (Mk 12:30-31)

Positional Response to Abortion

- Abortion is never justified

Is abortion justified?

- the pregnancy endangers the life or health of the mother
- pregnancy caused by rape
- having a child would prevent the mother achieving some life objective/lifestyle
- the fetus (baby) is not of the preferred sex
- abnormal fetus

Positional Response to Abortion

- Abortion is never justified
- Some abortions are justified
 - Therapeutic abortions
 - Justifiable or 'hard cases' abortions

What can we do about abortion?

Christian response to abortion

■ Sex Education



Christian response to abortion

- Sex Education
- Abortion is murder
- Contraceptives
- Adoption
- Love and Compassion
- Victims of incest and rape
- Teen pregnancy

Sermon transcript, PowerPoint and mp3 can download from

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