

Abortion

Layers of the Dilemma

(Portion One)

Stages of the issue

Life is contained in the Living, as is illustrated in the sequence of events in the Bible that brought forth the start of life in mankind.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
(Genesis 2:7)

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**Consideration:** In the actions of life, the first concern is for the entities that are living souls. A living mother should not be sacrificed for a pre-living embryo, which, though it may have a measure of life, has not been given the breath of life to bring it to the point of being a living soul.

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Another consideration: definition of, life. For purposes of discussion, we will allow that an embryo has a portion of life. However, an embryo does not have human life, yet; because it is a unique category of existence. God described this as the first stage of a two-step process. It is the, *fruitful*, phase of human reproduction, as described in the commandment that we received at our creation.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
(Genesis 1:27-28)

The, *multiply*, portion of the commandment, is where life is accomplished. Before that time, life is an option that is, firstly, controlled by the LORD. The fruitful stage of human development does not accomplish the completed status of, being a human. For instance, the bud of an apple is not yet an apple.

The concept of staged development is also demonstrated by the two-step process that is involved in, coming to righteousness, followed by the righteous expression of our calling in the LORD.

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.
(Matthew 12:33)

In considering this matter of trees, as it is expressed in Matthew 12:33, written above; the tree itself, is the primary part of the consideration. The fruit is an indicator of the nature of the tree, but it is not the sum total of the worth of the tree. In like fashion, the embryo is an indicator of the human fruitfulness that has been placed in mankind, by the LORD; but, the embryo is not the sum total of the state of, being human. Only God can decide if it will be allowed to receive His breath of life, as in the case of an uninterrupted multiplication.

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**Another consideration:** definition of, living. The full package of the mission for which the LORD has placed a living soul in the world, is not expressed in the womb. There are other components that are required to fully define the mission of the LORD, both for the inhabitant of the womb, and for the human that emerges from the womb. For instance, in the case of John the Baptist, there was a declaration of the angel of the LORD, as to what this developing human would become.

*There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.*

*And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.*

*And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.*

*But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.*

*And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of*

*the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

(Luke 1:5-17)

Also, in the case of Mary, and the developing child in her womb; the angel speaks in terms of what it would become, not in terms of what it is, as pertains to being a full human.

*And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*

*And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.*

*And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

(Luke 1:26-33)

While Jesus was in the womb, the angel spoke in more abstract terms about the nature of the product that was being formed in Mary.

*Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*

*And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

(Luke 1:34-35)

It is significant that the LORD did not consider it necessary to join, *that holy thing*, consisting of the contents of the womb, to the total fabric of humankind, until after the birth was complete. And, though it is true that the angel of the LORD spoke in terms of completed events; this was because of the foreknowledge that had been given to the angel of the LORD, by the LORD God. We are not given this type of foreknowledge when conception has started.

In general, we are not told, today, when a conception will proceed to completion, in fact. We can surmise, in theory, when a conception should proceed to completion, if there is not a terminal interruption of an unexpected nature. In the present day, now we can postulate a completion, based on current medical knowledge. The limitation to thinking in terms of theory is not a failing of mankind; it is a part of our awareness of mankind's finite reach in reality. Generally, we need to see the completion, before we will celebrate the accomplishment.

Consider this situation where there was a definite statement of a birth that was to be completed, as certified by a known representative of the LORD.

*And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.*

*Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*

(Judges 13:1-5)

Even though the angel said to the woman, *thou shalt conceive*; the father still did not fully accept that the LORD had delivered a true message of completion. Even with a direct statement from the representative of the LORD, the father was not convinced that the matter was sealed.

*And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.*

*And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee.*

*And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD.*

*For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD.*

*And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that*

*when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour?*

*And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?*

*So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground. But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD.*

*And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.*

(Judges 13:13-22)

Even though Manoah was unsure of his ability to be a part of the miracle (death would, definitely, have prevented him from participation); in its normal course, the child was born. As a result of the accomplished miracle of the unlikely birth--by reason of age; the time that it became fully clear that the mission of the LORD was truly emplaced in the child, was when the child emerged from the womb, as the angel had said that it would.

*But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have showed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.*

*And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.*

(Judges 13:23-24)

The mission of the LORD is not entrusted to the womb. The mission of the LORD requires a completed pregnancy, and a successful delivery. At that time, the mission that is assigned to the child will include all extensions of the individual that are provided by the LORD. The complete individual, including its extensions (such as, wealth, and fame, and wisdom), provide the power that is required for the service of that individual, to both God and man. Also included among these extensions is parental responsibility for the now living soul. The example of the child Jesus, gives us insight in this matter. Even when he was a child, without the full responsibility to act independently; still, the mission that had been crafted into him was apparent.

*And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the*

*grace of God was upon him.*

*Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.*

*And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.*

*And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*

*And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.*

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

(Luke 2:40-52)

The mission of the LORD is packaged in the completed, post-womb entity. This is the nature of being a, living soul. It should be obvious to everyone, but I say it for completion: God knows what each one of us will become. This is expressed by a king of the Old Testament.

*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

*For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's*

*womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

*My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

(Psalm 139:7-16)

Also true, is the fact that God knows what will not become. This indicates that the LORD already knows who or what will interrupt the process of development in the womb by the process of abortion, whether it occurs as an elective, accidental, or spontaneous interruption. I want to try to understand more of why God would allow us to perform the elective act, and what it truly means when we do so. I must say at the outset, my beliefs, in this matter, are framed by the following principle: we have no power to modify the will of God, in any sense. When God says that a thing will be, it will be.

*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

(Isaiah 55:6-11)

In the quietest thought about an elective abortion, it must be said that this is an act that illustrates that there was a process that God **did not** say, "It must proceed". To determine the boundaries of the human will, in the matter of things of the LORD, next we will look at the behavior and the consequence of abortion.

