

Don't Be Confused, Part 3

Steve Berger May 7, 2017

Don't be confused

Review — Part 1: Confusion — **Rebellion, Idolatry, Self-Devotion**
Part 2: Scriptures — Accuracy, Reliability, Authority

- **Today — Abortion** — sensitive subject; affects one in three women; trauma; guilt; shame; men's issues. *Abortion is not the unforgivable sin! Receive forgiveness and healing.* Allow Jesus to love you and forgive you.

60 million abortions in the US since Roe v. Wade, in Jan. 1973; about one every 97 seconds
— God takes this issue seriously

Ancient spiritual history

- Lot's daughters raised in Sodom and Gomorrah, land of sexual rebellion, idolatry, and self-devotion. This ultimately led to drunken incest with their father.
- **Genesis 19:36-38**
Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. The first born bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.
- **Ammonites** — The image of Moloch was a human figure with a bull's head and outstretched arms, ready to receive the children destined for sacrifice. The image of metal was heated red hot by a fire kindled within, and the children laid on its arms rolled off into the fiery pit below. In order to drown the cries of the victims, flutes were played, and drums were beaten; and mothers stood by without tears or sobs, to give the impression of the voluntary character of the offering.¹
- **Moabites**- "Chemosh-melek," indicates the possibility that Chemosh and the Ammonite god Molech were one and the same deity.

Important — *These nations that were birthed from sexual perversion then gave birth to child sacrifice. Rebellion, idolatry, and self-devotion created moral confusion that led to infanticide.*

- **Leviticus 20:1-2 — Forbidden**

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "again, you shall say to the children of Israel: 'Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives any of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones.'"

¹George Rawlinson. *History of Phoenicia* (Longmans, Green, 1889)

- **1 Kings 11:7, 33 — King Solomon divided Kingdom**

Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon... because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.

- **Jeremiah 32:35 — Baal/Molech**

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 to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

- **Phoenician Tanet** — fertility goddess, arch, Carthage, culturally advanced, highly educated — massive child sacrifice, until destroyed by Rome

Question — Isn't all this after a child is born — not abortion?

Answer — *Partial birth abortion would apply to this... also...*

- **Amos 1:13**

Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, that they might enlarge their territory.”

**Ammonites were guilty of abortion and child sacrifice...
brought God's judgment... “enlarging their territory”
extending the boundaries of acceptable human behavior...**

- **Proverbs 22:28**

...don't remove the ancient boundary your fathers have set

Abortion atrocity summarized in Jewish history...

- **Psalm 106:33-39**

Because they rebelled against His Spirit, so that he spoke rashly with his lips. They did not destroy the peoples, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them, but they mingled with the Gentiles and learned their works; They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood. Thus they were defiled by their own works, and played the harlot by their own deeds.

- **SACRIFICE**

Giving up something of value to get something better from a deity. In his message, “*Abortion: The Innocent Blood of Our Sons and Daughters*,” given on January 27, 2008, John Piper says, “Abortion in America is not done consciously with any desire to get blessing from a deity. But it is done to gain something “better” than the baby. We need to be sure to see it in those terms: The life of a child is being sacrificed for something. What that “something” is defines the barbarity of our culture...”² CONVENIENCE AND RIGHTS.

² <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/abortion-the-innocent-blood-of-our-sons-and-daughters>

• **SONS AND DAUGHTERS**

not fetus, not even children, sons and daughters, family members forever

• **INNOCENT BLOOD**

the babies' innocent lives were taken, innocent, they did nothing to deserve the punishment afflicted upon them

• **IT IS TO DEMONS**

history teaches us that Satanic worship is behind abortion, scripture teaches us that he has been a murderer from the beginning, (John 8:44). NOW abortion is very secular, rational, high-minded... demonic nonetheless. Again, from John Piper, "And someday we will see this. And we will be as amazed that it could have endured so long as we are that the enslavement of Africans lasted as long as it did. The issue is just as clear as that one was. And we are just as blind today as they were then."³

- ***Rebellion, Idolatry, Self-Devotion produces the same murderous confusion today as it did in ancient times, we just change the idols' names from Molech and Chemosh to "Convenience" and "Reproductive Rights"***

Mercy in midst of confusion

• **Psalm 106:44-45**

Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, when He heard their cry; And for their sake He remembered His covenant, and relented according to the multitude of His mercies...

THERE IS MERCY, FORGIVENESS, HEALING THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

• **Biblical clarity on babies, not fetus' (which is Latin for "offspring")**

• **Psalm 139:13-14**

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

- **God marvelously formed, covered, made in womb**

• **Jeremiah 1:4-5**

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

- **God knew, sanctified, set apart, ordained, called before conception**

• **Luke 1:15, 41, 44**

For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb... and it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit... For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

- **babe, leaped, filled, joy, 6 months in womb; "The first person to recognize Jesus was an unborn baby."**

³Ibid

- “Now we allow that life begins with conception because we contend that the soul also begins from conception; life taking its commencement at the same moment and place that the soul does” (Tertullian, Apology 27 from 210 AD)⁴

- At this point in the actual service, there was a video clip about the development of a baby in the womb.
- **Renee Rizzo, CEO of Hope Clinic spoke of their mission**
 - hopeclinicforwomen.org

To be able to grasp the full importance of either of these two elements of the service, you must watch the service online at gracechapel.net/sermons

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss how Rebellion, Idolatry, and Self-devotion, which create moral confusion, can lead to abortion.
2. Abortion in America is not done to get a blessing from a deity, but to gain something “better” than the baby. What is the life of the child being sacrificed for?
3. Respond to, “The first person to recognize Jesus was an unborn baby.”
4. Why does someone have to *choose* to believe that Jesus will forgive and heal, in order to receive forgiveness and healing?

⁴ Tertullian, *The Sacred Writing of Tertullian* (Jazzybee Veerlag, 2012)