

THEY SHED INNOCENT BLOOD, EVEN THE BLOOD OF THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Of all the Sundays in the year, this is my *least favorite* Sunday to preach. Why? Because today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday! Please don't misunderstand me—I am not *against* the “sanctity”—meaning the sacredness—of human life! What saddens me is that this particular day is also the anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling on *Roe vs Wade*. On January 22nd, 1973—50 years ago today—the highest court in our country ruled that women had the “*legal right*” to murder their unborn son or daughter that was in their womb!

Thankfully, Roe vs Wade was *overturned* on June 24th, 2022—roughly 7 months ago—so this is *the first* Sanctity of Life Sunday that we can celebrate *no legal abortions—or open abortion clinics*—in Wisconsin!

But I'm going to *talk about abortion anyway!* Why? Three reasons:

- 1) The battle *in Wisconsin* is not over! Although abortion is illegal at the *Federal* level, it is now a *state* issue. Wisconsin is currently operating under a law that has been in place since 1849. Abortion activists—and our current governor—want this law overturned. If it is overturned, so-called health care “providers” in Wisconsin would once again be able to kill the unborn without fear of being prosecuted.
- 2) The battle in *our country* is not over. Some states—23 out of 50—*still allow* abortions. I hope I'm wrong, but I'm afraid that number will go up—not down!
- 3) A third reason is this—I want to do my part in teaching you what the Bible says about the value of life and God's hatred for abortion! In an email I received this week from Wisconsin Family Council, Dan Degner shared that one legislator—an elected official in our state—said to him: “I asked my pastor for what the Bible says regarding abortion, and he told me that he couldn't help me on that issue.” How sad—and tragic!

Please take your Bibles and turn to Psalm 106. Psalm 106 is somewhat of a recap of the history of God's people—the nation of Israel. The church—those who have put their trust in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of sins and have been adopted by God into His family—*have not taken the place* of Israel. We *are not* the “new Israel;” we *have not replaced* them.

--There *are commandments* that God gave to the nation of Israel that we are *not obligated* to keep. We have one of those commandments in this chapter that we will be reading in a little bit.

--There are also *promises that God* made to the nation of Israel that we *cannot claim for ourselves*. Many of those promises will be fulfilled during the literal 1000-year reign of Jesus as King here on earth from a literal, physical throne in Jerusalem.

So *why* look at a passage in the OT—about the nation of Israel—when talking about a *current issue* like abortion? Because although there are commands and promises that apply *only to Israel*—and some that apply only to us *as believers*—often times there are what we call “timeless truths” that are applicable to *all* of God's people at *all* times. We will be looking at some of those this morning. Please follow along as I read verses 34-42.

So how did God's people go from loving and serving Him to sacrificing their children unto idols? Let's consider first...**1. The downward path**

We have here in the verses I just read a series of downward steps that God's people took that brought them to this point. They didn't just wake up one morning and say, “Hey, let's start sacrificing our children to devils!” Step 1, they... A. Disobeyed God

How did they *disobey* God? *By not destroying* the nations that God had *commanded them to destroy!* We see that in vs 34 “They did not *destroy* the nations, concerning whom the Lord *commanded* them:”

--Did God *really command* His people to destroy other nations? Yes, He did! Mark this spot—we'll come back here—and turn to Deuteronomy 7. God is talking to the nation of Israel—under the leadership of Moses—and is giving them instructions as to what they are to do when they enter the Promised Land.

--Look at vs 1-2. God was going to deliver (defeat) their enemies, but God's people were to “smite them, and utterly destroy them.” They were also instructed to not “shew mercy unto them.”

Why did God give His people such a seemingly harsh command?

Vs 4 tells us why. “For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods...”

--Jump to vs 16. Consume them—and don’t pity them. If you don’t, you will end up serving their gods!

--Now vs 25. Their graven images...their gods...their idols are an abomination to God. They are so detestable that God says to not even **desire the silver or gold** that is on them!

--Vs 26. Notice how strong God’s hatred is for graven images—idols—that are made for their false gods.

--They are an abomination

--It is a cursed thing

You shall detest it & utterly abhor it—it should disgust you & you should hate it—because it is a cursed thing!

Step 1 on their downward path was **disobedience**—they did not destroy the nations that God commanded them to destroy! I want to pause here for just a moment. How is that verse applicable to us today? Are we supposed to “destroy” nations that won’t embrace Christianity? Are we supposed to “**blow up**” abortion clinics—or **shoot** those who participate in the murder of the unborn? No; we cannot take this verse out of context and say that that is what God wants us to do!

Back to Psalm 106. What was step 2? They...

B. Mingled with the wicked

Vs 35 “But were mingled among the heathen...” Had they **destroyed them**, they obviously could not have **mingled** with them! And even if they hadn’t destroyed them, they could have **avoided** them. Instead, they **befriended** them...they mingled with them...they “hung out” with them as we say in our day and age.

Not surprisingly, when they mingled with the wicked, they also ... C. Learned from the wicked
What did they learn? They learned “their works.” They saw what they did—and probably asked **why** they did what they did! They learned how they **thought**—and began to **think** the same way!

Mingling and seeing and learning led to what? **Doing!** D. Served the false gods of the wicked

Vs 36 “And they **served their idols...**”

That’s the downward path. Obviously much more could be said about these steps, but please know that God isn’t just **informing us** about what happened to His people back then. He is **warning us** that the same can happen to us! When we **disobey God**—and **mingle** with the wicked—we will **eventually become like them** and begin to do what the wicked do! That principle is stated in both the Old and New Testament. **Proverbs 13:20** “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a **companion of fools** shall be destroyed.” **Prov 22:24-25** “Make **no friendship with an angry man**; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: ²⁵ **Lest thou learn his ways**, and get a snare to thy soul.”

I Cor 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil communications [bad company] corrupt good manners [morals].”

Simply put, you will **become like the people you spend time** with so choose friends wisely! Parents especially, don’t **underestimate the influence** your children’s friends will have on them. Better to have your child upset with you, than to knowingly let them hang around with someone you don’t want them to become!

Next, let’s consider... **2. The despicable practice**

A. The sacrifice of children in Biblical times

Notice again vs 37-38 “Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.” **How** exactly was this done? The Bible doesn’t give us the details, but the children were **obviously killed!**

How do we know that? Because **twice** in these two verses it says the children were **sacrificed**; three times it refers to their **blood being shed**. These are the **same words** used in the offering of animals and every animal that was sacrificed **died!** There were **no animal survivors**—and these helpless children didn’t survive either! **Some historians** suggest that statues of Molech—and Baal—had outstretched arms that were made of brass. These arms were heated red-hot, and living infants were placed into the idol’s hands. The children died in the idol’s hands from the heat—or possibly wiggled off, falling into the fire below. Not surprisingly, these sacrifices also involved loud beating drums to drown out the screams of the dying children!

Please know that although the Bible doesn't give **these** details, there is some **Biblical evidence** that the children **were burned**. **Jeremiah 19:5** "They have built also the high places of Baal, to **burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal**, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind:"

A similar statement is found in Jeremiah 32:35.

Why were children sacrificed? Again, the Bible does not specifically say, but it certainly was some kind of effort **to appease**—to make happy—their "god." They obviously wouldn't do something to **purposely anger** the god they were trying to please!

What I want to do now is compare the OT sacrifice of children to Baal and Molech with our current **murdering** of children. I realize "murder" is a rather **strong** word, but it is the **correct** word to use. Here's an on-line **definition of murder**: "the intentional and unlawful premeditated killing of one human being by another." That's what abortion is, isn't it?!

B. The murder of children in current times

Comparison 1) The age of the children sacrificed.

One obvious difference between the sacrifice of children to idols referred to in Psalm 106 and our current murdering of the unborn is the **age** of the child.

--In Psalm 106, the children were sacrificed **after** they were born—possibly several months of age.

--We "only" murder **the unborn**—the pre-born—when they **are in their mother's womb**. We do not kill them **after they come out**, right? Sadly—and horrifically—that is not true! There are babies that survive attempted abortions—100s per year—that are killed or left to die **after** they are out of their mother's womb!

Mat Staver from Liberty Counsel shared the account of a young woman named Angele who went to an abortion clinic in Florida. They induced labor and sent her home. She returned to the center later that day and ended up delivering her live baby boy by herself in the clinic bathroom. Upon seeing her son, Angele immediately changed her mind and realized she had made a terrible mistake. She wanted this baby after all!

She **screamed** for help, but the abortion center assistants **would not help her**. They refused to call an ambulance, so she contacted a friend to call 911 for her. The **ambulance came**, but the clinic workers met the paramedics outside and **lied to them**, telling them everything was okay. So instead of entering the building and helping this frantic, unprepared mother, they left. And the young woman, stroking her little boy's head and telling him how much she loved him, helplessly watched her little boy as he died in her arms! (email from Mat Staver, Liberty Counsel, dated January 17th, 2023, available from me upon request).

On January 11th—less than 2 weeks ago—the House passed HR 26 – "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act." This Bill requires that if a child is born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion—like the situation I just read—the health care practitioners that are present must do two things:

- 1) Give the same degree of care as would be provided to any other child born alive at the same age;
- 2) Ensure the baby is immediately admitted to a hospital.

And then it adds: "An individual who intentionally kills or attempts to kill a child born alive is subject to prosecution for murder."

Sadly, 210 members of the House of Representatives voted "NO" on this bill! In other words, 210 members of the House believe that if a baby somehow **survives an abortion**, it is okay for the health care workers that are present to **finish the job** and kill the baby—or just let it die! There is a name for that—besides barbaric, cruel, and disgusting. It's called infanticide!

Comparison 2) What happens to the bodies.

What happened to the **bodies of the children** that were sacrificed to idols? As best we can determine, they were burned in the fire!

What happens to the bodies of **aborted babies**?

--The heart, lungs, and liver—if not damaged during the murder of the child—are sold to the highest bidder for "research." Dr. Debra Nucatola—a former director of medical services in Planned Parenthood—bragged about how skilled she had become in killing children without damaging these organs!

But what about the **bodies**? What about **the parts** that aren't used for research? What happens to them?

The bodies are considered "medical waste" and clinics have companies that come and pick them up. One such company—Curtis Bay Medical Waste Services—operates in Washington, D.C. Last March, a pro-life sidewalk counselor approached one of the workers who was at an abortion clinic to pick up some of these boxes. She asked if she could take one of the boxes to give the babies a proper funeral and burial.

According to Mat Staver with Liberty Counsel, the box had 115 babies inside, 5 of which were wrapped separately. The 5 wrapped separately were all of the age where they could have **easily survived** with the current medical care that is now available. One of those five were believed to be 32 weeks of age—meaning 1 month from being born!

What does Curtis Bay Medical Waste Services do with the bodies? Their claim to fame is that they "operate a unique waste-to-energy technology that utilizes medical waste for energy creation." That's a fancy way of saying they burn bodies of babies to create electricity that is used to heat homes! Sickening, isn't it? (Source: "Waste Management Process | Curtis Bay." Curtis Bay Medical Waste Services. Accessed January 21, 2023. curtisbaymws.com/pages/our-process.)

Now let's consider... **3. The deserved punishment**

We're still in Psalm 106, look at vs 40 "Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against His people, insomuch that He abhorred His own inheritance."

A. God's anger because of their sin

God's wrath was kindled—meaning God was angry. Was God **wrong** in being angry? He wasn't, was He?

Let's think through **why** God was angry. A number of reasons, here are **two**:

1) God loves truth—and has a holy jealousy for the truth! He—and He alone—is God. He is the living God... and the true God...and **their** God. He performed miracle after miracle and proved that the gods of Egypt were **frauds**. They couldn't **do** anything—because they **weren't** anything! They were not to be feared—and they were not to be worshipped—and yet God's people **left Him** to serve them! His love for truth brought righteous anger.

2) God loves life. God loves the helpless, the hopeless, and the needy. He hates the "hands the shed innocent blood" we are told in Prov 6:17. It's an abomination to God to kill a child and offer it to Him—how much more when it is offered to an idol—a "something" that is really "nothing!" Twice in Jeremiah God says that such a disgusting act had never even entered His mind (Jer 19:5; 32:35).

God wasn't **just** angry, though. God didn't just **voice His displeasure**, cool off, and go back to what He was doing. We see in vs 41-42... B. God's punishment because of their sin

What punishment did God bring? Notice verses 41-42. Is it 4 different things—2 in verse 41 and 2 in verse 42? In my mind, there isn't a whole lot of difference between "being given into the hand of the heathen" ... and being "ruled by those that hate you"and "being oppressed by your enemies" ...and "being in subjection to your enemies."

To me, it seems that God is saying this: 'Since you don't want to **voluntarily** be ruled by your compassionate, good, living, loving, All-knowing, and All-powerful Creator, you will be ruled by—and forced to serve—those who hate you!' Not a very good trade off, is it?

Could that happen to us **someday**? I'm of the opinion that the someday is **already here!** God is allowing us to be ruled by those who hate us and want to oppress us!

Lastly—because I don't want to end on a totally depressing note—let's consider... **4. Undeserved pardon**

What did God **do** to His people **after** He punished them? Vs 43 says He delivered them; vs 45 says He "repented according to the multitude of His mercies." He did not let their enemies totally destroy them, He changed the way He treated them.

--Even though **they had no mercy** on the children they sacrificed, God still had **mercy on them**.

--And even though **an abortionist has no mercy** on the children they kill, God can still **have mercy on them**.

--Murder—whether in the womb or outside of it—is not the unpardonable sin!

--**A mother** who knowingly goes into a facility desiring the death of the child within her—and allows her child to be killed—can still find mercy in God.

--**A doctor** who does the murdering can find mercy in God.

--And the **directors and nurses and workers** who lie to the pregnant women and are accomplices to murder can find mercy in God.

Why? Look at **Ps 86:5** “For thou, Lord, art good, and **ready to forgive**; and **plenteous in mercy** unto all them that call upon thee.”

--It’s not just the mother or the abortionist themselves who need God’s mercy, though! We all do because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God!

--According to this verse, who does God forgive? For whom is He “plenteous in mercy”?

Unto all that **call** upon Him! Have you done that? Is there a point of time in your life when you came to God in repentance and asked Him to forgive you? He is ready to forgive—and plenteous in mercy!

In light of what we have heard today from God’s Word, what does God want us to do?

1. First, honestly evaluate whether or not you have been forgiven and are a child of God. Every one of us will meet God someday and if you die unforgiven, God’s wrath will fall upon you.
2. Pray that HR 26 passes the Senate.
3. Pray that God will work on the hearts of those that are involved in abortions.
4. Vote for pro-life—not pro-choice—candidates. Be educated on where candidates stand.
5. Financially support—and pray for—organizations that fight abortion and offer alternatives.