

yasa – which almost always refers to the emergence of a living thing. So it could mean a premature birth.

If the miscarried child is not injured, the penalty is merely a fine. But if it is harmed, the penalty is life for life, tooth for tooth, etc. Read this way, the passage treats the preborn with the same value it does the mother. The penalty for harming either is the same. (Note also the text calls the expelled fetus a “child”— a fact abortion advocates cannot easily get around.)⁵

Pro-Life Scripture

The Bible clearly teaches respect for life. This teaching comes across in many ways. The Bible teaches:

1. God is creator

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 2:7-8, 18, 21-23: The Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being... The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him.” ...So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: “This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called ‘woman’ for out of ‘her man’ this one has been taken.”

Job 31:15: Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

Psalms 8:5-7: You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild.

Psalms 104:30: When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

John 1:3: Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made.

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Revelation 4:11: Worthy are you Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things; because of your will they came to be and were created.

Revelation 21:1-2: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

2. The humanity of the preborn

Genesis 25:23: “two nations are in thy womb” (Jacob and Esau) “and two manner of people.”

Judges 13:2-5: There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore, be careful and drink

no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

Psalm 22:10-11: You have been my guide since I was first formed . . . from my mother's womb you are my God.

Psalm 139:13-16: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Isaiah 49:1,5: Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name... And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength.

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.

Matthew 1:20-21: But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her

is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Luke 1:15: He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.

Luke 1:41-44: And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."

Galatians 1:15: God ... from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through His grace.

3. The value of human life

Genesis 1:26-27: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 9:5-6: And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."

Job 10:12: Thou hast granted me life.

Psalm 8:5-7: Lord, what is man that you care for him, mortal man that you keep him in

mind? ... With glory and honor you crowned him, giving him power over the works of your hands.

Matthew 6:26: Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17: Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

James 3:9-10: With [the tongue] we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the image of God ... This ought not be so, brothers.

4. Children are a blessing

Genesis 1:28: And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fertile and multiply."

Genesis 25:21: And Isaac intreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was intreated of him, and Rebecca his wife conceived.

Psalms 112:9: He establishes in her home the barren wife as the joyful mother of children.

Psalms 127:3-5: Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Matthew 18:1-2, 10: At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them. ... "See that you do not

despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."

Mark 10:13-16: And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing His hands on them.

5. Killing of the innocent is condemned

Genesis 4:10-11: The Lord then said, "What have you done! Listen: your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil! Therefore, you shall be banned from the soil that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand."

Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17: Thou shalt not kill.

Exodus 21:12: Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death.

Exodus 23:7, Jeremiah 7:6, 22:3, 17: Shed not innocent blood.

Deuteronomy 27:25: "Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood." And all the people shall say, "Amen."

2 Kings 17:17-18: They mutilated their sons and daughters by fire ... til the Lord, in his great anger against Israel, put them away out of his sight.

Psalms 106:35, 37-38: They mingled with the nations and learned their works ... They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and they shed innocent blood,

the blood of their sons and their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, desecrating the land with bloodshed.

Proverbs 6:16-19: There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

Proverbs 24:11-12: Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die. Don't try to disclaim responsibility by saying you didn't know about it.

Jeremiah 7:30-31: "The people of Judah have done what is evil in my eyes," says the Lord. "They have defiled the house which bears my name by setting up in it their abominable idols. In the Valley of Ben-hin-nom they have built the high place of Topheth to immolate in fire their sons and their daughters, such a thing as I never commanded or had in mind."

Ezekiel 24: 38-39: This, too, they did to me: they defiled my sanctuary and desecrated my Sabbaths. On the very day they slew their children for their idols, they entered my sanctuary to desecrate it. They acted within my house.

6. Lifting up and giving voice to the marginalized and the voiceless

Psalms 72:4,12-14: He shall defend the afflicted among the people, save the children of the poor, and crush the oppressor. ... For He shall rescue the poor man when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. From fraud

and violence he shall redeem them, and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

Psalms 82:4: Rescue the lowly and the poor; from the hand of the wicked deliver them.

Isaiah 1:16: Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.

Matthew 20:30-34: Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" The crowd warned them to be silent, but they called out all the more, "Lord, Son of David, have pity on us!" Jesus stopped and called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?"... Moved with pity, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Mark 2:16: Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.

Luke 17:12-14: As He was entering a village, ten lepers met Him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when He saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priest." As they were going, they were cleansed.

John 4:9-10: The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Jesus answered and said to her. "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him and he would have given you living water."

Galatians 3:28: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave or free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

James 1:22: Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

7. Love

Leviticus 19:18: Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countryman. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Matthew 7:12: Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

Matthew 25: 40,45: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."... "Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

John 13: 34: As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.

1 John 3:11-12: This is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, unlike Cain who belonged to the evil one and slaughtered his brother.

1 John 3:17: If someone ... sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in Him?

8. Life overcomes death

Deuteronomy 31:19: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live.

Isaiah 25:8: He will destroy death forever.

John 1:4-5: In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light

shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 10:10, 14-15: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ... I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

John 11: 25-26: Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

1 Corinthians 15:55-57: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ... Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

