**Answering Arguments In Defense Of Abortion (SR: Psalm 82)**

 We live in a day and time where violence is increasing at breakneck speed. Rather than condemning this violence our society, even our government, is condoning it (Isaiah 5:20-21; Rom. 1:28-32). The most obvious of these crimes is the heinous act of abortion. And when we say abortion, we don’t mean situations in which the baby has already died in the womb by natural processes and must be taken out (a situation my sister recently faced), nor do we mean ectopic pregnancies where there is no viability for the baby. We are talking about the intentional & violent act of murdering a baby inside of a mother’s womb & tearing it out piece by piece. What seems so obviously cruel & brutal has become common, even encouraged. How shameful and repulsive, sickening and heartbreaking (Prov. 6:17).

 Christians need to stem the tide of this descent into depravity by standing for what is right & giving defense for the defenseless, a voice for the voiceless (Prov. 31:8-9). The lesson today is to equip us to that end & show how to answer calmly & collectively, logically & in an informed fashion, the four main arguments we will hear in support of abortion (Prov. 15:28). If we can give these responses, we will help educate, inform, & convict others regarding this wicked act. If we can do this, we will shed light in an increasingly dark world.

**I. “It’s Just A Fetus; It’s Not Really A Person!” (*Ignorance or deception*; Contrast: Ps. 139:13-16; Is. 44:24a)**

A. The Truth from the Medical & Biological Perspective (Credited: Cynthia Isabell, DNP, ACNS-BC, registered nurse with 28 years experience in OB, 8 years in med-surg and hospice nursing, 17 years experience as a nursing instructor)

 1. *“When does life begin?”*

 a. *“How do you tell if something, such as a cell, is alive or not?”*

 b. *“Living cells grow and multiply.”*

 c. Growth and multiplication are exactly what is happening after an egg and sperm join to form a zygote. Within 24 hours of conception, the zygote is dividing rapidly into many cells, which will differentiate to become different parts of the body.

 d. Dead things don’t multiply. They don’t replicate. They don’t differentiate into different body parts. Life begins at conception when the fertilized egg begins to grow.

 2. *“When can it be considered a human?”*

 a. *“What determines whether we are a human, rather than a bird or zucchini?”*

 b. *“Our genetics; our DNA.”*

 c. When the egg and sperm join, this is the beginning of a new human with its own unique DNA, different from its mother. DNA that will determine eye color, skin color, skin tone, fingerprints, and a million other individual characteristics (cf. Eccl. 11:5; Job 10:8-10; Job 10:11).

 3. Abortion is the intentional ending of a human being’s life based on the fact that, biologically speaking, life & DNA are both started at conception.

**II. “It’s Medically Required!” (*Ignorance or deception*; Contrast: Ephesians 5:6)**

 A. The Truth from the Medical Perspective:

 1. *“As an OB/GYN physician for 31 years there is no medical situation that requires aborting/killing the baby in the third trimester to ‘save the mother’s life.’ Just deliver the baby by C/Section and the baby has a 95+% survival with readily available NICU care even at 28 weeks. C/Section is quicker and safer than partial birth abortion for the mother.”* (Lawrence K. Koning, MD, FACOG)

 2. *“As a board-certified practicing OB/GYN physician for over 30 years, I need to say publicly and unequivocally, that there is never a medical reason to kill a baby at term. When complications of pregnancy endanger a mother’s life, we sometimes must deliver the baby early, but it is always with the intent of doing whatever we can to do it safely for the baby too. The decision to kill an unborn baby at term is purely for convenience. It is murder...God help us.”* (Dr. David McKnight)

 3. *“I want to clear something up so that there is absolutely no doubt. I’m a board certified OB/GYN who has delivered over 2,500 babies. There’s not a single fetal or maternal condition that requires third trimester abortion. Not one. Delivery, yes. Abortion, no. There is absolutely no medical reason to kill a near term or term infant, for any reason.”* (Dr. Omar L. Hamada) \*See also Dr. Rebecca Cisneros from slideshow.

 B. The Truth from the Legal Perspective:

 1. The laws being passed allowing for third trimester abortion in New Mexico, New York, and Rhode Island are conditioned upon protecting “the patient’s life or health.” This is marketed as medical necessity and portrayed as a “mother-or-child” scenario.

 2. However, this is not the case. When we say “necessary” we view an either- or scenario. Legally, this is not the case. Legally, “necessary” is at the discretion of the practitioner as is “the patient’s life or health.”

3. The bills define “necessary” and “patient’s life or health” in broad sweeping terms derived from the Doe vs. Bolton Supreme Court case which states: *“Whether, in the words of the Georgia statute, ‘an abortion is necessary’ is a professional judgment that the Georgia physician will be called upon to make routinely. We agree with the District Court, 319 F. Supp., at 1058, that the medical judgment may be exercised in the light of all factors – physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age – relevant to the well-being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health.”*

4. In other words, a physician could decide that almost anything is a threat to the mother’s health under these terms. That’s why people are correctly calling it abortion on demand – even if that’s not what the law is explicitly calling for, it’s what it’s allowing for.

5. Our government has become Judah of old (Micah 3:1-4, 8-12).

 C. Even if this were true, which it isn’t, it still does not justify any and all abortions. If you say sometimes shooting a person can save the life of another, as in self- defense, should you conclude it’s ok to shoot people anytime, for any reason?

**III. “Options Need To Be Available For Victims Of Rape!” (*argumentum ad passiones*; cf. Prov. 18:17)**

A. In 2004, the Guttmacher Institute anonymously surveyed 1,209 post-abortive women from nine different abortion clinics across the country. Of the women surveyed, 957 provided a main reason for having an abortion. Less than 0.5% said they were the victims of rape! In other words, 4 out of over 1,200 women said rape was the reason they had an abortion.

1. This was anonymous, so the shame factor for rape victims was minimized.

2. It is possible that even this handful may have misrepresented their situation to emotionally and psychologically justify their decision.

3. Regardless, rape is an extremely tiny percentage of what leads mothers to abort their babies. But is this necessary?

 B. The Children Of Rape Can Become Influential People (cf. Jer. 1:5)

 1. Layne Beachley, 7-time World Champion Surfer – Mom was raped at 17yo.

 2. Kelly Wright, former *Fox & Friends* weekend co-anchor – Mom was raped at 16yo. He said that his mother always told him that although he was conceived how he was, God had a purpose for his life.

 3. Faith Daniels, TV personality – Mom raped at 17. Faith has said, *“It really doesn’t matter how you were conceived, only what you’ve become.”*

 4. Valerie Gatto, Miss PA 2014 – Mom raped at knifepoint at 19. She travels the country now teaching women how to protect themselves from assault. She has said, *“I believe God put me here for a reason: to inspire people, to encourage them, to give them hope that everything is possible and you can’t let your circumstances define your life.”*

 C. Abortion makes the situation worse! The mother and baby are both helped by preserving life, not by perpetuating violence!

 1. The assumption is typically made that victims desire abortions. In the only major study of pregnant rape victims ever done, Dr. Sandra Mahkorn found 80% chose against abortion! (“Pregnancy and Sexual Assault,” The Psychological Aspects of Abortion, eds. Mall & Watts, (Wash., D.C., University Publications of America, 1979) 55-69.) Related, victims of incest have been found to rarely ever voluntarily choose abortion! (Maloof, “The Consequences of Incest: Giving and Taking Life” The Psychological Aspects of Abortion (eds. Mall & Watts, Wash., D.C., University Publications of America, 1979) 84-85.)

 2. In fact, many of the 1 in 5 women left who have had abortions have reported that their abortions felt like a degrading and brutal form of medical rape (Francke, The Ambivalence of Abortion (New York: Random House, 1978) 84-95, 167.; Reardon, Aborted Women – Silent No More (Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1987), 51, 126.)

 3. Going through with the birth of the child is therapeutic for rape victims because it allows them to regain some of her lost self-esteem by engaging in a totally selfless act of generosity that displays courage, strength, and honor. Why are people pushing for abortion in this scenario when it is exactly the opposite of what is most advantageous and beneficial for the victim? In a sexual rape, a woman is robbed of her purity; in this medical rape she is robbed of her maternity.

 D. What these victims of rape are actually saying (cf. Prov. 18:13; Amos 1:13-15):

 1. *“I soon discovered that the aftermath of my abortion continued a long time after the memory of my rape had faded. I felt empty & horrible. Nobody told me about the pain I would feel deep within causing nightmares & deep depressions. They had all told me that after the abortion I could continue my life as if nothing had happened.”* (Jackie Bakker)

 2. *“I, having lived through rape, and also having raised a child ‘conceived in rape,’ feel personally assaulted and insulted every time I hear that abortion should be legal because of rape and incest. I feel that we’re being used by pro-abortionists to further the abortion issue, even though we’ve not been asked to tell our side.”* (Kathleen DeZeeuw)

 3. *“Throughout the years I have been depressed, suicidal, furious, outraged, lonely, and have felt a sense of loss… The abortion which was to ‘be in my best interest’ just has not been. As far as I can tell, it only ‘saved their reputations,’ ‘solved their problems,’ and ‘allowed their lives to go merrily on.’… My daughter, how I miss her so. I miss her regardless of the reason for her conception.”* (Edith Young, victim of incest at 12yo who was forced to commit an abortion)

**IV. “You Can’t Tell A Woman What To Do With Her Body!” (*Red Herring*; Prov. 17:15)**

A. A woman has every right to be in control of and responsible for her own body. She has the right and responsibility to use methods to prevent conception if she does not want to become pregnant. She has the right to not engage in activity known to lead to pregnancy by practicing sexual abstinence.

 B. Once pregnancy occurs though, it is no longer the woman’s body that is in question as the baby is not a part of her body. The placenta and umbilical cord connect, but also and more importantly for this objection, they separate two bodies. These things exist precisely b/c the baby has a different circulatory system than the mother and their blood must not intermingle. If the fetus were not a separate human being, the placenta & umbilical cord would not be required to separate them!

 C. What about the related objection: “You have no right to judge someone for their personal decision”? If I truly believe that abortion is wrong, that it kills an innocent person, and if I understand the facts of science that prove it is murder, then how can I say that it is ever okay for anyone to have the right to make that decision? That is like saying that I think it is wrong to shoot the guy at the gas station, and I would not do it, but I cannot impose those beliefs on anyone else. It’s like saying that even though I think it would be wrong to hold a pillow over the face of someone, I shouldn’t impose my beliefs.

 D. The Scriptures command God’s people to judge un-hypocritically (Matthew 7:1- 5), with righteous judgment (John 7:24), and to call evil what it is (Ephesians 5:6-17). This will cause some to hate you, but it is necessary and vital to the Christian walk (Prov. 24:11-12). When we know the right thing to do, we must do it or it is sin (James 4:17).

 E. The Scriptures also command governmental authorities to reward what is good and punish what is evil (Rom. 13:1-7). If they will not do this, then we must resist their refusal to serve as ministers of God in all acceptable ways.

 *“Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands”* (Isaiah 49:15-16) God knows every one of the 60 million innocent babies since the passing of Roe v. Wade who have been slain in the place where they should be most protected. He mourns their loss but comforts them in His arms.

 Do not be silent in regards to abortion. God commands that we speak up. So let’s get educated and let’s educate others on the evil of abortion. If you have supported abortion, do support it, or maybe even have had an abortion, as terrible as that is, forgiveness is available for you. Jesus dies on the cross to deliver you from all guilt. Only in Him can you find peace and deliverance. Be His child and draw near to Him & He will draw near to you.