
“Am I in the Place of God?”

Observing God’s Involvement in Life & Death

(Genesis)

30:1-2 ¹ Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!" ² And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "**Am I in the place of God**, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

I. God Designed Life – Creation

II. God Begins Life – Conception

A. Created by God (“male & female”)

1:27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

B. Commanded by God (“be fruitful...”)

1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

9:1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."

9:7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

C. Controlled by God

1. The opening & closing of the womb

20:17-18 ¹⁷ So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore *children*; ¹⁸ for the Lord had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

29:31-32 When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. ³² So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The Lord has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me."

30:1-2 (above)

2. The giving & withholding of children

25:21 Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

3. The promises given to people and their descendants

17:6-7 ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

4. The number, timing, & gender of offspring

21:1-2 ¹ And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. ² For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

D. Commended by God (“blessed them...”)

22:15-17 ¹⁵ Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*-- ¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

28:3 "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; (Isaac to Jacob)

E. Claimed by God (“Is there anything too hard for the Lord?”)

18:14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

F. Attributed to God (“...which the Lord God gave me”)

4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."

4:25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."

III. God Keeps Life – Provision

IV. God Ends Life – Termination

7:21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man.

9:6 Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

50:15-21 ¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for **am I in the place of God?**

1 Sam 2:6 The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. (Deut 32:39; 2 Kings 5:7; John 11:25)