

## Babies – Who Decides: God or Man? –Part 2

Again, I simply ask for your kind attention and your thoughtful consideration of what I will present. You can and will draw your own conclusions, which indeed affect every view of your life, career, church, and world.

I will do my best to cover several concepts found in Scripture. These will, in the least, include the following:

- Procreation's Pronouncement (design and mandate)
- Procreation's Process (God is involved)
- Procreation's Privilege (God calls children a blessing)
- Procreation's Promise (God must preside over generations to fulfill His blessings and promises of offspring)
- Procreation's Pinnacle (God controlled the birth of Jesus)
- Procreation's Pattern (Both from the OT and the NT)
- Procreation's Purpose (godly offspring)

### 1. Procreation's Pronouncement

*Gen. 1:27-28 So God created man in His [own] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> 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."*

God gave five commands in Verse 28. Let me answer three questions regarding these five commands.

#### A. What Are They?

- 1) Authorizations (The *Right* to Do These) God gave us *permission* to carry out these five blessings.
- 2) Blessings (The *Privilege* to Do These) God considers each of these 5 as *good* and *desirable*.
- 3) Commands (The *Responsibility* to Do These) Each is an *imperative* – a command.
- 4) Directions (The *Path* Which Will Be Taken) Each is a *course* set in motion by God that will be followed.
- 5) Enablements (The *Ability* to Do These) God gave us the *capacity* and *desire* to do the things commanded.

#### B. What Do They Mean?

- 1) Be Fruitful (to bear fruit) – to *have children*
- 2) Multiply (to become many, to become numerous) – to have *numerous* children
- 3) Fill the Earth (to fill) – to have numerous children to the point of eventually *filling* the *earth*
- 4) Subdue It (to take control of) – to become *master* over the earth, and be *responsible* for it
- 5) Have Dominion – to rule *over* the *creatures* of the earth

#### C. Are They for Today? (Do They Apply to Us Today?): 12 Reasons for "Yes"

- 1) (A) Practice. We still practice each as though we have permission to do so (if not for today, why still do them?)
- 2) (B) Blessing. They continue to be something that is good in God's eyes (a blessing).
- 3) (C) No Condition Is Stated. "Be fruitful UNTIL this specific state or condition is met, etc. ..."
- 4) (C) No Timeframe Is Given. "Be Fruitful UNTIL this specific time..."
- 5) (C) No Reversal. Cancellation – There are no commands from God to rescind, repeal, or revoke any of these 5 blessings.
- 6) (D) No Ceasing. Cessation – There is no evidence of any of these five stopping. (Executive; laws of nature)
- 7) (E) Continuing. Continuation – The enablement for all 5 commands continues. We still are able to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, etc.
- 8) Repeating. Repetition – Some commands are repeated (the 1<sup>st</sup> three). Others are never repeated (the 2<sup>nd</sup> two).
- 9) Incomplete. Completion – The world is not full, fully subdued, nor can it be once & for all ruled. (Note: The world's problem is sin, not overpopulation.)
- 10) Necessary. Necessity – We cannot survive or function without any of the five. The human race would die out in one generation (1-3) or in days (4-5).
- 11) Partial. Inconsistency – People still embrace the last two. Our claim to the right (or authorization) to any necessitates our acceptance of all 5.
- 12) Connected. Connection – They seem to rise and fall with marriage, not just a time in Genesis.

### 2. Procreation's Process (God Is Involved)

#### A. If God indicates that He is involved, then what are we doing when we resist His involvement?

#### B. God Is Revealed as the Giver of Life – Giving Life Is His Realm of Control

**Gen 2:7** And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

**Deut 32:39** 'Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.

**1 Sam 2:6** The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.

**2Ki 5:7** And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

**Job 1:21** And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

**Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

**Psa 104:30** You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

**Neh 9:6** You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

**Isa 42:5** Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:

**Zec 12:1** The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:

**Act 17:25** Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

**Act 17:28** "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.

### C. God Is Revealed as Having Control Over the Womb

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

**Gen 29:31** When the LORD saw that Leah *was* unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel *was* barren.

**Gen 30:2** 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?"

**Gen 30:22** Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

**Deut 7:13** "And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.

**I Sam 1:5-6** But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.

**Isa 66:9** Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up *the womb?*" says your God.

**Rom 4:19** And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

### D. Scripture Affirms the Fact that God Is Directly Involved in Conception, and in Control Over It

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

**Gen 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."

**Gen 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.

**Gen 29:32-33** 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." Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the Lord has heard that I *am* unloved, He has therefore given me this *son* also." And she called his name Simeon.

**Gen 30:1-2** 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!" 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?"

**Gen 30:17** And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

**Gen 30:18-20** Leah said, "God has given me my wages, because I have given my maid to my husband." So she called his name Issachar. Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. And Leah said, "God has endowed me *with* a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun.

**Gen 30:22-23** Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.<sup>23</sup> And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

**Gen 33:4-5** But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who *are* these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

**Judges 13:3** And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

**Ruth 4:13** So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

**I Sam 1:20** So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

**I Sam 2:21** And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

**I Chron 25:5** All these *were* the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to exalt his horn. For God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

**Job 31:15** Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?

**Ecd 11:5** As you do not know what *is* the way of the wind, *Or* how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.

**Isa 44:2** Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, *who* will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

**Isa 44:24** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I *am* the LORD, who makes all *things*, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;

**Luke 1:36-37** "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren."<sup>37</sup> "For with God nothing will be impossible."

**Heb 11:11-12** By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.<sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born *as many* as the stars of the sky in multitude-- innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.