

Babies – Who Decides: God or Man? – Part 3

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.

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. 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."

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) Enablers (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 1st three). Others are never repeated (the 2nd 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

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.

Gen 2:7; Deut 32:39; 1 Sam 2:6; 2Ki 5:7; Job 1:21; 10:8-12; 33:4; Psa 104:30; Neh 9:6; Isa 42:5; Zec 12:1; Act 17:28

C. God Is Revealed as Having Control Over the Womb

Gen 20:17-18 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; 30:22; Deut 7:13; 1 Sam 1:5-6; Isa 66:9; Rom 4:19)

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

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.

Gen 4:1; 4:25; 25:21; 29:32-33; 30:1-2,17,18-20,22-23; 33:4-5; Judges 13:3; 1 Sam 1:20; 2:21; 1 Chron 25:5; Job 31:15; Eccl 11:5; Isa 44:2,24; Luke 1:36-37; Heb 11:11-12

3. Procreation's Privilege (God calls children a blessing)

A. Throughout Scripture, children are seen as a blessing – something to be desired and received from God.

Gen 1:28a Then God BLESSED them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply..."

Deut 7:13a "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..."

Deut 28:11 "And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

Psa 127:3-5a Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So *are* the children of one's youth. ⁵ HAPPY [blessed] *is* the man who has his quiver full of them...

Psa 128:1-4 BLESSED *is* every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. ² When you eat the labor of your hands, You *shall be* HAPPY, and *it shall be* well with you. ³ Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. ⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be BLESSED Who fears the LORD.

B. Throughout Scripture, not having children is seen negatively, often as a curse.

Hosea 9:14 Give them, O LORD-- What will You give? Give them a miscarrying womb And dry breasts!

Hosea 9:16 Ephraim is stricken, Their root is dried up; They shall bear no fruit. Yes, were they to bear children, I would kill the darlings of their womb."

Prov 30:16 The grave, The barren womb, The earth *that* is not satisfied with water-- And the fire never says, "Enough!"

4. Procreation's Promise (God must preside over generations to fulfill His blessings and promises of offspring)

A. God's promise to provide salvation required His controlling of conception throughout time

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

Gen 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Psa 132:11 The LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.

Isa 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jer 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

B. God's promises to Abraham (Isaac, Jacob, David...) requires God's control of conception throughout time

Gen 12:2-3 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (22:15-18; 26:1-4 – Isaac; Deut 1:8-10, etc.)

Gen 15:4-6 And behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Luke 1:67-73 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: ⁶⁸ "Blessed *is* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, ⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, ⁷⁰ As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who *have been* since the world began, ⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, ⁷² To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, ⁷³ The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

Heb 11:12 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.

5. Procreation's Pinnacle (God controlled the birth of Jesus)

Luke 1:30-37 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "*The* Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ "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. ³⁷ "For with God nothing will be impossible."

Matt 1:20-23 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

6. Procreation's Pattern (Both from the OT and the NT)

A. *Throughout the Old Testament, God's design as set in Genesis 1 of bearing children is the unbroken norm. Even at and after the time of the fall, the bearing of children is seen as the primary focus and blessing of marriage (Gen 3:16). (See also #3)*

B. *The New Testament does not deviate from the pattern set in the Old Testament. Bearing children is assumed and expected as a key focus of marriage in general (Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20-21; 1 Tim 3:4,12) and a primary role of women (1 Tim 2:15; 5:10, 14; Titus 2:4).*

Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (cf. 6:1-3; Col 3:20-21)

1 Tim 3:4 one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence (cf. 3:12)

1 Tim 5:9-10 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, *and not unless* she has been the wife of one man, ¹⁰ well reported for good works: if she has brought up children...

1 Tim 5:14 Therefore I desire that *the* younger *widows* marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Titus 2:3-5 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

7. Procreation's Purpose (godly offspring)

Mal 2:13-15 And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive *it* with goodwill from your hands. ¹⁴ Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ But did He not make *them* one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.