

“The Continuing War – the Serpent’s Seed against the Seed of the Woman”

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Abortion and the Storyline of God Genesis 3:15

Friend, if I am reading the Story correctly, the serpent’s seed still wages war against the seed of the woman.

In 2005 (the most recent year for which there is reliable data), approximately 1.21 million abortions took place in the U.S., down from an estimated 1.29 million in 2002, 1.31 million in 2000 and 1.36 million in 1996. From 1973 through 2005, more than 45 million legal abortions have occurred in the U.S. (The Alan Guttmacher Institute [AGI]).

Abortion is the serpent’s seed raging against the woman’s seed. Satan’s first attempt to stop his demise was by Cain slaying Abel; then through the corruption of all people ending in their complete annihilation in a universal flood. God protected His seed by sending them into Egypt where for 430 years they were left alone. Ishmael was the serpent’s seed seeking to undermine the promises of God. Lot’s two children were humanity’s attempt to undermine the integrity of God’s seed by the birth of two incestuous offspring: Moab and Ammon. Yet God will triumph and produce lineage through their sin. Then Pharaoh seeks to destroy the woman’s seed by the killing of all male children born to the Hebrew women.

¹⁶ “and he said, ‘When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.’ ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live” (Exod. 1:16, 17).

Surrounding nations will pit themselves against the nation of Israel with the sole intent of destroying the woman’s seed.

When the Christ child was born, King Herod destroyed all those who might fulfill the promise by killing all male children two years of age and under who presented any challenge to his throne. It is always a conflict of two kingdoms. Although the Christ child has come and the Story continues to unfold according to script, the serpent’s seed continues its war against the kingdom of God.

Abortion and infanticide are both attempts of the serpent’s seed to destroy the seed of the woman. Why, with the birth of the Christ, would Satan stop his assault? Friend, is it of any wonder that the Church of Christ has always been protectors of the woman’s seed. Let us listen to a handful of the early Fathers of the Church.

- The Didache

"The second commandment of the teaching: You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not seduce boys. You shall not commit fornication. You shall not steal. You

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shall not practice magic. You shall not use potions. **You shall not procure [an] abortion, nor destroy a newborn child**" (*Didache* 2:1-2 [A.D. 70]).

- Athenagoras

"What man of sound mind, therefore, will affirm, while such is our character, that we are murderers?

. . . [W]hen we say that those women **who use drugs to bring on abortion commit murder**, and will have to give an account to God for the abortion, on what principle should we commit murder? For it does not belong to the same person to regard the very fetus in the womb as a created being, and therefore an object of God's care, and when it has passed into life, to kill it; and not to expose an infant, **because those who expose them are chargeable with child-murder**, and on the other hand, when it has been reared to destroy it" (*A Plea for the Christians* 35 [A.D. 177]).

- Tertullian

"In our case, a murder being once for all forbidden, **we may not destroy even the fetus in the womb**, while as yet the human being derives blood from the other parts of the body for its sustenance. To hinder a birth is merely a speedier man-killing; nor does it matter whether you take away a life that is born, or destroy one that is coming to birth. That is a man which is *going to be* one; you have the fruit already in its seed" (*Apology* 9:8 [A.D. 197]).

"There is also [another instrument in the shape of] a copper needle or spike, by which the actual death is managed in this furtive robbery of life: **They give it, from its infanticide function, the name of *embruosphaktes*, [meaning] "the slayer of the infant," which of course was alive**. . . .

- The Apostolic Constitutions

"Thou shalt not use magic. Thou shalt not use witchcraft; for he says, 'You shall not suffer a witch to live' [Ex. 22:18]. **Thou shall not slay thy child by causing abortion, nor kill that which is begotten**. . . . [I]f it be slain, [it] shall be avenged, as being unjustly destroyed" (*Apostolic Constitutions* 7:3 [A.D. 400]).

Where are we in all of this? We can speak of our hypocrisy and inconsistency when discussing the issues of capital punishment, just war and abortion, but let us not deceive ourselves in ever attempting to justify the issue of abortion and infanticide. They are great evils, and both are attacks by the serpent's seed against the promises of God. It isn't so much for us to decry the one without offering our full support of the other. We must not only be against abortion and infanticide but we must openly be for life. May God awaken us to the great task of the Church to protect and enable life.

Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in **the Storyline of the Bible**. She is determined by design to have a **God-centered, Christ-exalting worship; a Word-centered teaching** focused on personal **discipleship** through intentional and systematic instruction; a **Global-impacting mission** that resolves to be a **church planting church**; and a **Grace-based fellowship** where disciples are invited to live under a **reigning grace** characterized by a **Gospel-driven sanctification** that celebrates a divine **monergism** to the Christian life.