

SIN AND JUDGMENT

The late David Chilton in his compelling book *Power In The Blood, A Christian Response to AIDS* wrote a chapter on AIDS and Divine Judgment. The following quote, although rather long, sums up the aim of this article on Sin and Judgment: “A few years ago, when I worked with the Institute of Christian Economics, a reporter for a national Christian magazine called. He was polling economists and economic writers around the country, asking us a single question: ‘If you could change only one government policy in order to pull us out of our economic problems, what would that change be?’ ‘That’s easy,’ I said. ‘Stop killing babies.’ His journalistic instincts keen, he said: ‘Uh...what?’ ‘Stop killing babies,’ I repeated. ‘You know, abortion? In case you’ve missed the story, over 4,000 unborn babies are slaughtered in this country every day. They’re poisoned, chopped in pieces, suctioned, or simply delivered and left to die. Sometimes the doctor strangles or smothers them...’” (This is something the pro-choice, that is pro-death, advocates do not tell us). The quote continues: “‘Uh, yeah, I know that.’ He sounded nervous. ‘But I think you misunderstood the question. I was asking what *economic* policy you would recommend to alleviate the country’s problems.’ ‘Yes, I know that. But you misunderstood my answer. I said that if I could change only *one* thing to solve our economic problems, I would stop abortion. That’s not the only thing wrong, of course. Many other things should be stopped, such as government’s manipulation of money and credit. Confiscatory taxation should be stopped. Protectionism should be abolished. Fractional reserve banking, should be outlawed. We could talk about a lot of things. But you asked for one thing, life isn’t that simple, so I said baby killing.’ ‘Wait a minute,’ he said, exasperated. ‘What has abortion got to do with our economic problems?’ ‘Maybe that’s the real problem,’ I replied: ‘Here you are, a writer for a respected Christian publication, and *you* don’t get the connection between (a) the legalized murder of one and a half million people every year, and (b) the fact that God is selling us into economic bondage to other nations. It’s called Divine Judgment, and it won’t stop with mere economic judgment. Murder is a *capital* crime.’”

The only Scripture on abortion, besides the sixth commandment “You shall not murder”, is Exodus 21:22, 23: “If men fight and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely...if any lasting harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.” This is not a case of deliberate abortion, but accidental abortion. But note the severe penalty. If this resulted in capital punishment and the penalty for even an accidental abortion is death, how much more penalty for an induced abortion? As Rousas J. Rushdoony points out in *The Institutes of Biblical Law* “Since even a mother bird with eggs or young is covered by law (Deut. 22:6, 7), clearly any tampering with the fact of birth is a serious matter; to destroy life is forbidden except where required by God’s law.” All this is conveniently ignored by abortionists, even so called “Christian abortionist”. In a book published in 1969 by the Christian

Medical Society, entitled *Birth Control and the Christian*, Dallas Theological and Westminster Seminary professor, Bruce Waltke in commenting on this passage states that he sees “no law here against abortion and, in fact, abortion was permissible in Old Testament law.” He further states “the fetus is not reckoned as a soul.” Even James Dobson, who has led the fight against abortion, in his book *Decision of Life* rejected this passage as being applicable today. He justified this decision on the fact that we cannot enforce the commandments in Exodus 21:20-21 and Deut 21:18-21, that deal with the death of a slave and rebellious children. Even though the passage is part of the Old Testament law given to the Jews, it states a principle that we cannot neglect.

The Apostle Paul states that the events in the Old Testament were our example and “were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of ages have come” (I Cor. 10:11). One of the most prominent example is God’s judgment upon the nation was because of the practice idolatry and their worship of foreign gods. Two such gods were Molech and Chemosh, the two gods that demanded the sacrificing of children: “And they built the high places of Baal to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech” (Jer. 32:35) “...They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons, and shed innocent blood. The blood of their sons and their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood” (Psalm 106:37, 38) “...Moreover you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne of Me, and you sacrificed them to Idols to be devoured” (Ezek. 16:20) “...Neither shall you give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech ...Any man who gives his offspring to Molech, surely shall be put to death ...because he has given his offspring to Molech” (Lev. 18:21; 20:2, 3) “...You also took along the tabernacle of Molech and the star of the god Rompha, the images which you made to worship them. I also will remove you beyond Babylon” (Acts. 7:43).

God did not overlook the sin of Israel. Here is just one example of His judgment that came upon them: “Thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel ‘An end! The end is coming. Now the end is upon you, I shall send My anger against you, I shall judge you according to your ways, and I will bring all your abominations upon you. For My eye will have no pity on you, nor shall I spare you, but I shall bring your ways upon you, and your abominations will be among you; then you will know that I am the Lord.’ Thus says the Lord God, ‘A disaster, unique disaster, behold it is coming! An end is coming; the end has come! Awakened against you, behold it has come! Your doom has come to you, O inhabitant of the land. The time has come, the day is near—tumult rather than joyful shouting on the mountains. Now I will shortly pour out My wrath on you, and spend My anger against you, judge you according to your ways, and bring on you all your abominations. And My eye shall show no pity nor will I spare. I will repay you according to your ways, while your abominations are in your midst; then you will know that I, the Lord, do the smiting...The king will mourn, the prince will be clothed with horror, and the hands of the people of the land will tremble. According to their conduct I shall deal with them, and by their judgments I shall judge them. And they will know

that I am the Lord” (Ezekiel 7: 1-9, 27). God is speaking to His people, the nation of Israel. Evidently they were comfortable with offering their children to the fire of Molech. How could religious people do such a heinous thing? With that question in mind consider who is having abortions today: Women identifying themselves as Protestants obtain 37.4% of all abortions in the U.S.; Catholic women account for 31.3%, Jewish women account for 1.3%, and women with no religious affiliation obtain 23.7% of all abortions. 18% of all abortions are performed on women who identify themselves as “Born-again/Evangelical”! (From: *The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform*). The vast majority of churches today are so enamored with being contemporary and impressing the world or they are so caught up in their legalistic doctrines that they are publicly unconcerned about abortion. No wonder Peter said: “It is time for judgment to begin with the house of God...” (I Peter 4:17).

Gary North is a prolific writer who has written much about our civil law and system of government. In one of his books: *Is The World Running Down?* He writes of the sin of the nation of Israel and God’s judgment upon them. Then he asks: “Is the West at this stage?” (At the same stage Israel was when God sent terrible judgment upon them). His answer: “Yes. The single issue of abortion is proof enough. Murder of the innocent is the law of the land in most Western societies. As long as the slaughter of innocents continues, societies store up a warehouse of wrath. If godly preaching and godly political mobilization are not enough to reverse the trend, then fear born of judgment will have to be the prayers of the saints. We must scare men into allowing the innocents to be born. We have lost on this issue. We have little time remaining to reverse the political process. Every year that we are delayed by murders in high places, a million babies die in the United States, and perhaps 55 million per year worldwide. God’s judgment is preferable to this.” His figures on the number of abortions performed every year was based upon the Office of Technology’s statistics published in 1982 entitled *World and Fertility Planning Technologies*. The number of abortions in 1982, according to voluntary reports from abortionist, published by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, was one million six hundred thousand abortions performed in the United States. After 1982 the number of abortions levels off at that figure until 1991, then each year thereafter they decline until 2003. Then from 2004 until 2008 the number performed in the United States has been one million, two hundred thousand a year. The Guttmacher Institute reports that this number means one baby is aborted every 26 seconds and 136 babies are aborted every hour.

The big question being argued today is “When does life begin?”

The pro-death advocates will argue that life does not begin until birth, while those who oppose abortion believe that life begins at conception. Since God is the Creator and the giver of life, we can set aside all the philosophical, legal and medical arguments and turn to the Scriptures for the answer. “Now the word of the Lord came unto me saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations’” (Jer. 1:5). “Listen to Me and pay attention you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb; from the inward parts of my mother He named me” (Isa 49:1). “You didst form my inward parts; You didst weave me in my mothers womb...My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in

depths of the earth” (Psalm 139:13-15). “...And he (John the Baptist) will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb” (Luke 1:15). “And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb...” (Luke 1:41). This “baby” certainly had life. What is the difference between murdering an infant who is five seconds out of the womb and murdering an infant five hours earlier, or five days, or five weeks? “Partial-birth” abortion, in spite of being made legal by legislators and judges and the effort against it being vetoed by a president, is still murder.

Congressman John G. Schmitz in “Government Against life.” *Weekly News Report*, Aug. 19, 1970, as quoted by R. Rushdoony in *The Institutes of Biblical Law* reported: “Here in Congress, legislation has been introduced in both House and Senate to allow the killing of unborn children throughout the United States. Testimony before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce revealed a bill is pending in the Florida State Legislature which would legalize the killing of old people (euthanasia), and that a bill in the Hawaii State Legislature would compel the sterilization of all women after they have had the second child. Such legislation heralds the coming of a new Nazism to our land.” This was written in 1970. There is a little publicized debate occurring today in our State Legislatures. Oregon and Washington State have legalized and practices “assisted suicide death”. Perhaps other states have had or have pending initiatives to legalize euthanasia.

After telling Abraham that his descendents would be enslaved by a foreign nation for four hundred years, God said: “I will also judge the nation whom they will serve...then in the fourth generation they shall return here *for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete*” (Gen. 15:14-16). God would not bring Israel into the land until He had judged the Amorite although the judgment would be delayed until evil had reached its height. The sin of the Amorite would come to a point where evil was not permitted to go beyond. Their sin had to run its course and arrive at a certain pitch of wickedness, then God would bring judgment upon them. God will not bring judgment upon a nation until they have persisted in sin so long and arrived at such a pitch of evil that their judgment is just, based upon the gravity of their sin. God later said through the prophet Amos “It was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of cedars and he was strong as the oaks; I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below” (Amos 2:9). We do not know how long God will withhold His judgment upon a nation that murders over a million of its people a year, but we know that “the Lord is not slow about His promises, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9). Therefore, “Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Gal. 6:7). Through the Old Testament era we see radical destruction of all nations that rejected God, so the Christian era will see a great shaking of the powers that be. Because their unbelief, apostasy, and lawlessness will eventually run its course until their iniquity reaches a height that God can no longer abide, then the judgment will come. The pro-death people call it freedom of choice. But this is not “freedom”. Athanasius called such freedom “captivity”. Luther called it “bondage”. Calvin called it “depravity”. Basil called it “vanity”. Chrysostom called it “debauchery”. and Solzhenitsyn called it “irresponsibility”. Scripture calls it “MURDER”.

