

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

Life is Sacred Job 10:8-12

January 22, 2023

INTRO.: Welcome to *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday!* I am grateful that we have had people in Sunday School from **Expectations Women's Center in Lewisburg** and **Your Loving Choices in Bloomsburg**. We also support **PCC Corner of Hope** in Shamokin. Our theme this morning is **LIFE IS SACRED**. Why do we stand for the protection of the life of the unborn? As we come today, I also realize that for some this may be a difficult day. Maybe you have had an abortion or encouraged someone else to have an abortion. We are not here to throw stones but to say that Jesus Christ has paved the way for healing and forgiveness. Maybe you're dealing with an unexpected pregnancy and wondering what to do. Maybe you have a friend who is considering having an abortion and you don't know what to say to them. We also want to direct you to one of the Crisis Pregnancy Care Centers I mentioned for ongoing help and counsel. As you may have noticed from your outline, this morning's message is taken from the book of Job. Maybe you're wondering what the book of Job has to say about life? Well, I'm glad that you asked but to get to the answer I want to first share the background of what is going on in the book of Job. As a side note, many believe that Job is the oldest book of the Bible. So, what do we know about Job?

Job 1:1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

Job was a God-fearing man who also shunned evil. Job had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 donkeys, and a large number of servants. He is even described as the greatest man among all the people of the East. He was concerned about his children's relationship with God. Satan came along and challenged God that the only reason Job feared God was because God had blessed Job with all his family and possessions. In fact, Satan says, "But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

So, God allowed Satan to take these things away. So, in a matter of a very short amount of time Job lost it all. Someone came in to tell him all his servants were killed and while he was still speaking another messenger came to tell him a fire killed his sheep and servants. One after another: camels were stolen, and lastly the house collapsed on all his children killing them all. It is hard to imagine so much horrible news in such a short amount of time. The book of Job is all about how he works through these tragedies, even when God allows Satan to affect Job's physical body. Three of his friends jump in and tell him it is because of his sin that he is going through these mounting trials and losses. It would be hard for anyone of us to imagine how we would handle this much loss. I was talking with someone on Friday and we were discussing the response to the tragedies and unexplainable trials of life. Our conclusion was that there are three possible options people pursue. The first two, I believe, are the most popular options today and probably always have been.

1) Since I am unable to conceive of a god that would allow or cause such difficult things I conclude there must be no god. I am going to live my life with that conclusion which ultimately leads to me declaring myself god.

2) Since I am unable to conceive of a god that would allow or cause such difficult things I determine to make a god who suits me. A god who matches my life choices, preferences, and desires. Maybe it's a god who affirms everything anybody does.

3) In the midst of unexplainable tragedy and loss I choose to trust the God of the Bible because of his character as revealed in the Bible. I recognize His ways are not my ways. It doesn't mean that I don't struggle through making sense of life, but I know that I serve a God who tells me to pour my heart out to him. The book of Job is a story of him pouring his heart out to God and God reminding him of who God is.

This is Job's first response:

Job 1:20–21 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship **21** and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

Job 1:22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

This doesn't mean that Job had it all figured out. After God allowed Satan to afflict Job with painful sores this was the response of his wife:

Job 2:9–10 His wife said to him, “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

Job 2:10a He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”

Job 2:10b In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

It is with this background that we come to Job 10 where Job speaks of three things that further explain why we support and fight for the life of the unborn. These three things are all about God: **God Designs**, **God Gives Life**, and **God Gives Purpose**.

I want us to read in unison Job 10:8-12

Job 10:8–12 “Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me? Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese, clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews? You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.

I. GOD DESIGNS

v. 8-11

(definitions of words gleaned from several commentaries)

Verse 8: “Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me?”

“shaped me:” this carries with it the idea of great pains being taken in the creating. To work, to form, to fashion. It was used to describe carving or cutting, in reference to both wood and stone. The carving was meant to produce an object or statue. Job is saying that God has taken great care, skill, and pains in creating him, and in fact, every one of us.

“made me:” the Hebrew word means simply “to make”

The NASB adds something which is in the original language:

Job 10:8 (New American Standard Bible) ‘Your hands fashioned and made me altogether, And would You destroy me?’

“altogether:” this has to do with the unity of the body. God has put the body together in an amazing way.

ILLUS.: I was talking to one of the people from this fellowship who fell and broke their kneecap. Even in the middle of the pain he was marveling at God’s great design.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Psalm 33:15 he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

Isaiah 45:12 It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.

Job asks how can God, the God who intricately designed him, destroy him?

Verse 9: Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again?

“molded me like clay:” this has to do with the wonderful fashioning by the Divine potter. This gives the idea of the potter making an exquisite work of art. That’s what God has done with all of us!!! Why would a potter so carefully mold the clay into such a precious object and then turn it back into dust? We see this picture of God being the potter and us being the clay throughout Scripture.

Isaiah 64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Romans 9:20–21 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ ” **21** Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Job wants to know how it is possible that God, who fashioned us like the potter does the clay, to make an exquisite creation, why would He then turn it back to dust. Job is struggling, and yet, at the same time recognizing God as the Creator.

So, when does this great designer begin designing each one of us? What Job says next gives us the answer to that question.

Verse 10: Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese

What is Job talking about? He is communicating that life begins at conception. There is the fluid that God uses, we have the sperm and the egg joining together to form the embryo.

In the organization of the body from its rude commencements in the embryo, the original liquid gradually assumes a more solid consistency, like milk curdling into cheese.(Jamieson/Fausset/Brown)

This sounds a lot like:

Psalm 139:15–16 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, **16** your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Verse 11: clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews?

“knit me together:” woven together

Psalm 139:13–14 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. **14** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

After the initial time of conception God then forms the skin, flesh, bones, sinews. The ultrasounds of today make this so much clearer. This is ALL traced back to God!!! This is God’s great design!!!

ILLUS.: One of our sons likes to build Lego cars. They come in kits, but you have to put the Legos together. There are elaborate instructions, and it takes quite some time to put together one of these cars. He doesn’t just take the box of Legos and throw them on the ground and the car is formed.

We value and stand for life in the womb because God’s creation begins at conception and secondly:

II. GOD GIVES LIFE

v. 12a

You gave me life and showed me kindness

God is the author of life!

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

“kindness:” this is the Hebrew word *“hesed,”* which carries with it the ideas of faithfulness, love, mercy, a God who keeps His promises. Every breath we take is a gift from God and a reminder of His grace, mercy, and faithfulness!!

The Apostle Paul, when in Athens, was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. He spoke at the meeting of the Areopagus (great philosophers of the day) and began by noticing they were very religious with all their objects of worship. He even noted they had an altar to The Unknown God, in case they missed one. He says, “Let me tell you about the one you missed.”

Acts 17:24–28 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. **25** And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. **26** From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **27** God did this so

that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. **28** 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

God is the author of life and He is the One who gives value to life. God designs from the moment of conception, God gives life, and thirdly:

III. GOD GIVES PURPOSE

v. 12b

in your providence watched over my spirit.

"providence:" constant care, superintendence

Albert Barnes: means properly mustering of an army, the care that is manifested in looking over those who are enlisted; and then denotes care, vigilance, providence, custody, watch. The idea is that God had watched over him and preserved him, and that to his constant vigilance he owed the preservation of his life

Some truths of Scripture regarding those who know the Lord:

Hebrews 13:5 Never leave or forsake us

Romans 8:31-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God

Romans 8:28-29 God is working all things together for our good, to be conformed to His image

John 10:28-29 Jesus gives us eternal life and no one can snatch us out of the Father's hand

Psalms 18:30-32 God's way is perfect

Matthew 28:18-20 We are commanded to make disciples and He will be with us always

God is the One who provides meaning and purpose to life!!

SO WHAT????

How do I respond when I understand that God designs, God gives life, and God gives purpose?

*Come to know the Creator and Author of life

*Seek help to deal with past abortion

*Seek help or refer someone for an unplanned pregnancy

*Volunteer at a Crisis Pregnancy Care Center

*House an unwed mother

*Adopt or be a Foster Parent

*Contact my political representatives to let them know that I value life

*Vote for life

*Get to know the God of the Bible

*PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!