

Connect360: Sacred Life of the Preborn

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- *Lesson 10 in the Connect360 unit “Sacred Life: God’s Plan for Us” focuses on Psalm 139:13-16.*

As lesson 9 noted, one of the clearest and most direct biblical passages affirming the preborn life’s beautiful and sacred nature is found in Psalm 139:13-16. This passage is a poignant testament to the value and sanctity of the preborn life in Christian teaching. These verses poetically express the truth that God’s involvement in human life begins right from the womb.

The imagery of being “knit together” in the mother’s womb conveys a sense of intimate, careful creation, revealing that each person is not just a biological accident but a purposefully crafted being. This psalm affirms that a person’s identity and existence are already known to God before birth, implying a deep level of divine care and intentionality.

The phrase “all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” further strengthens the idea that every life has a predetermined purpose and significance, established even before birth.

For God’s children, this passage is a powerful testimony to the profound worth and dignity of the preborn, seeing them as fully human and cherished in the eyes of God, deserving of protection and respect.

In Hebrew, the phrase “knit together” has a stronger connotation than a soft blanket someone made for a loved one. Rather, this phrase commonly means to “cover” or “overshadow.” In a literal sense, it can refer to covering something in a protective or shielding manner.

This word appears in various contexts in the Old Testament often with the connotation of providing protection or shelter. In the context of Psalm 139, God is weaving a person together in their mother's womb means God is both the one creating them and simultaneously protecting them. It reflects God's protective and formative action in creating a person. This term points to the protective, nurturing aspect of God's relationship with every individual even before birth, highlighting a deep, personal connection and care from the very beginning of life.

Other biblical passages directly speak to the preborn's personhood and subsequent dignity and value. Jeremiah 1:5 is a common verse many point to as a testimony to the personhood of the preborn—"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

While God is speaking directly to the prophet, this passage demonstrates the innate personhood and individuality of Jeremiah when he was still inside his mother's womb. Moreover, notice how God speaks to the current and yet-to-be-nature of Jeremiah's calling. Before he was born, God had already set him apart for a special purpose and plan.

In Luke 1:41-44, when Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, comes to visit her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant with her son John the Baptist, Elizabeth exclaims: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." Filled with the Holy Spirit, the unborn John the Baptist leaped for joy at the presence of the unborn Christ.

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