

MATT SURVILO

THE BIBLICAL CASE FOR LIFE: AN INDUCTIVE STUD

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	5
<i>Inherent Value</i>	7
<i>Origin of Life</i>	11
<i>Murder and Killing</i>	15
<i>Child Sacrafice</i>	19
<i>Imposed Morality</i>	21
<i>Faithfullness</i>	25
<i>Appendix 1</i>	29
<i>Appendix 1: Abortion Discussion Questions</i>	31

Introduction

This is not a defense of the Bible.

This study will operate under the assumption that the Bible is the word of God and God's character and heart have been revealed for us to discover in both the Old and New Testaments.

Analogies will be drawn and assumed between the nation of God - Israel and Judah and modern-day Christians.

A note on old testament passages. Although the punishment for sin has always been death, post-Christ those who trust in His sacrificial work do not have to bear the punishments seen in the old testament. This does not mean that God's character and value system observed in the old testament no longer applies. bad wording

Throughout this study verses will be shown in the NASB 2020 version.

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

Inherent Value

Man's Creation

1 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

¹⁹There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, 'Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.'

²¹ God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

²² God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

²³ There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind'; and it was so.

²⁵ God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'

²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'

Gen 1:18-28 (NASB)

Question 1: What purpose did God give the animals? How about man?

Question 2: In what ways was the creation of man unique from the animals?

Man's Timeline

Read the following verses and note any repeated words.

Question 3: What is the subject matter of the following verses?

¹¹ He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NASB)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NASB)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

⁴⁶ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Matthew 25:46 (NASB)

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NASB)

Question 4: What timeline was man made for?

² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace [and] everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:2 (NASB)

⁵ And there will no longer be [any] night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:5 (NASB)

Man's Position

In the last section we observed that God's heart and Jesus' ministry are centered on the human soul and everlasting life. Let's now consider the lives of other creatures God has made and the value He has placed on them.

24 If a man takes the life of any human being, he shall surely be put to death.

¹⁸The one who takes the life of an animal shall make it good, life for life.

¹⁹ If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him:

²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him.

²¹ Thus the one who kills an animal shall make it good, but the one who kills a man shall be put to death.

²² There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the LORD your God."

Leviticus 24:17-22 (NASB)

Question 5: What is the punishment for taking the life of someone's animal?

Question 6: What is the punishment for taking the life of another man?

Question 7: What does this reveal about the hierarchy of the value of life in God's kingdom?

Origin of Life

1 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² And she cried out with a loud voice and said, 'Blessed [are] you among women, and blessed [is] the fruit of your womb!

⁴³ And how has it [happened] to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?

⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

Luke 1:41-44 (NASB)

Question 1: In the following passage was the baby (John the Baptist) conscious of his surroundings?

Question 2: In light of **2 Timothy 3:16** (see introduction) what might be God's purpose in recording this moment into the Gospel of Luke?

The Womb

139 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, [And] skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained [for me], When as yet there was not one of them.

Psalms 139:13-16 (NASB)

¹⁵ Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?

Job 31:15 (NASB)

³¹ Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

Genesis 29:31 (NASB)

²² Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb.

Genesis 30:22 (NASB)

⁵ but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶ Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.

1 Samuel 1:5-6 (NASB)

Question 3: Who controls has ultimate control over a woman's body?

Children as Fulfillment of God's Plan

The following passage is about the birth of John the Baptist, who was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ.

1 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.

¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,

¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.

¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

¹⁹ The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.

²⁰ 'And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.'

²¹ The people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple.

²² But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept making signs to them, and remained mute.

²³ When the days of his priestly service were ended, he went back home.

²⁴ After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying,

²⁵ 'This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked [with favor] upon [me], to take away my disgrace among men.'

Luke 1:11-25 (NASB)

Question 4: NOT SURE WHAT TO ASK ABOUT THIS ONE ?

¹Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me.
Isaiah 49:1 (NASB)

⁵'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.'
Jeremiah 1:5 (NASB)

²²But the children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is so, why then am I [this way]?' So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³The LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger.'
Genesis 25:22-23 (NASB)

¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart [even] from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased
Galatians 1:15 (NASB)

Question 5: God says He 'knew' and 'consecrated' Jeremiah before he was born. What do you think it means to be 'known' by God in this way?

Question 6: What can this passage tell you about the potential God sees in every person?

Question 7: Looking at all these verses together, what similarities do you see regarding God's involvement in people's lives before birth?

Question 8: How do these ideas impact your understanding of what it means to have purpose or calling in life? When is someone's purpose or calling determined?

Murder and Killing

Unlawful Killing

¹³You shall not murder.

Exodus 20:13 (NASB)

⁶Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

Genesis 9:6 (NASB)

¹²He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.

Exodus 21:12 (NASB)

35 ¹But if he pushed him suddenly without enmity, or threw something at him without lying in wait, ²³or with any deadly object of stone, and without seeing it dropped on him so that he died, while he was not his enemy nor seeking his injury, ²⁴then the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the blood avenger according to these ordinances. ²⁵The congregation shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the blood avenger, and the congregation shall restore him to his city of refuge to which he fled; and he shall live in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

Numbers 35:22-25 (NASB)

Question 1: What crime does this most closely resemble in US law? See Appendix 1 for more information.

21 ¹If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges [decide]. ²³But if there is [any further] injury, then you shall appoint [as a penalty] life for life, ²⁴eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

Exodus 21:22-25 (NASB)

Wartime Killing

¹⁶'Only in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall not leave alive anything that breathes. ¹⁷'But you shall utterly destroy them, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, as the LORD your God has commanded you,

Deuteronomy 20:16-17 (NASB)

Killing in Self-Defense

¹'If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep. ²'If the thief is caught while breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there will be no blood-guiltiness on his account. ³'[But] if the sun has risen on him, there will be bloodguiltiness on his account. He shall surely make restitution; if he owns nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

Exodus 22:1-3 (NASB)

Capital Punishment

21 ¹⁶He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death. ¹⁷He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. **Exodus 21:15-17 (NASB)**

¹⁰If [there is] a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. **Leviticus 20:10 (NASB)**

¹⁶Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death. **Leviticus 24:16 (NASB)**

¹⁰ So Pilate said to Him, 'You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?' ¹¹Jesus answered, 'You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has [the] greater sin.' **John 19:10-11 (NASB)**

Question 2: Does Jesus recognize the authority of the government to execute capital punishment?

13 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for [rulers] are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. ⁷Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Romans 13:1-7 (NASB)

Child Sacrifice

¹⁹When you come opposite the sons of Ammon, do not harass them nor provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot as a possession.'

Deuteronomy 2:19 (NASB)

²¹You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 18:21 (NASB)

¹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²You shall also say to the sons of Israel: 'Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones. ³I will also set My face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so as to defile My sanctuary and to profane My holy name. ⁴If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech, so as not to put him to death, ⁵then I Myself will set My face against that man and against his family, and I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who play the harlot after him, by playing the harlot after Molech.

Leviticus 20:1-5 (NASB)

⁴For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father [had been]. ⁵For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. ⁶Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father [had done]. ⁷Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. ⁸Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

1 Kings 11:4-8 (NASB)

¹Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned

fifty-five years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hephzibah. ²He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel. ³For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. ⁴He built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, 'In Jerusalem I will put My name.' ⁵For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. ⁶He made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking [Him to anger].

2 Kings 21:1-6 (NASB)

¹¹'Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations, having done wickedly more than all the Amorites did who [were] before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols; ¹²therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am bringing [such] calamity on Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle.

2 Kings 21:11-12 (NASB)

¹⁶Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

2 Kings 21:16 (NASB)

¹Ahaz [was] twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do right in the sight of the LORD as David his father [had done]. ²But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; he also made molten images for the Baals. ³Moreover, he burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom and burned his sons in fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel. ⁴He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills and under every green tree.

2 Chronicles 28:1-4 (NASB)

Imposed Morality

Some people say that America is not a christian nation. Should this matter? Let's explore what God says about culture at large.

God's People Living in a Foreign Land

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Philippians 2:14-16 (NASB)

¹³'You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty [again]? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does [anyone] light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶'Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NASB)

God's People Looking at Foreign Nations

¹³Thus says the LORD, 'For three transgressions of the sons of Ammon and for four I will not revoke its [punishment], Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead In order to enlarge their borders. ¹⁴'So I will kindle a fire on the wall of Rabbah And it will consume her citadels Amid war cries on the day of battle, And a storm on the day of tempest. ¹⁵'Their king will go into exile, He and his princes together,' says the LORD.

Amos 1:13-15 (NASB)

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

Psalms 96:5 (NASB)

²⁴'Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled. ²⁵'For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants. ²⁶'But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments and shall not do any of these abominations, [neither] the native, nor the alien who sojourns among you ²⁷(for the men of the land who have been before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled); ²⁸so that the land will not spew you out, should you defile it, as it has spewed out the nation which has been before you. ²⁹'For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do [so] shall be cut off from among their people. ³⁰'Thus you are to keep My charge, that you do not practice any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so as not to defile yourselves with them; I am the LORD your God."

Leviticus 18:24-30 (NASB)

God's People Affected by Foreign Influence

⁶For You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled [with influences] from the east, And [they are] soothsayers like the Philistines, And they strike [bargains] with the children of foreigners. ⁷Their land has also been filled with silver and gold And there is no end to their treasures; Their land has also been filled with horses And there is no end to their chariots. ⁸Their land has also been filled with idols; They worship the work of their hands, That which their fingers have made.

Isaiah 2:6-8 (NASB)

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

¹⁵Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, and [also] its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (NASB)

⁹But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR [God's] OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. ¹²Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe [them],

glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:9-12 (NASB)

Faithfulness

Is believing enough? Is believing in Pro-Life principles sufficient to be faithful to God?

⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8 (NASB)

⁸Open your mouth for the mute, For the rights of all the unfortunate.
⁹Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.
Proverbs 31:8-9 (NASB)

²²Samuel said, 'Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, [And] to heed than the fat of rams.
1 Samuel 15:22 (NASB)

¹²'Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³[and] to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?
Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (NASB)

²³In all labor there is profit, But mere talk [leads] only to poverty.
Proverbs 14:23 (NASB)

¹⁸Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.
1 John 3:18 (NASB)

¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;
Ephesians 5:11 (NASB)

²²But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who

delude themselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for [once] he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the [law] of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

James 1:22-25 (NASB)

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, ¹⁵but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always [being] ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

1 Peter 3:14-17 (NASB)

¹⁰'Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹'Blessed are you when [people] insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹²'Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NASB)

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶but if [anyone suffers] as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

1 Peter 4:12-16 (NASB)

³³'These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.'

John 16:33 (NASB)

¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil [one]. ¹⁶'They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **John 17:14-16 (NASB)**

³⁴'Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵'For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; ³⁶and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

Matthew 10:34-36 (NASB)

¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Romans 12:18 (NASB)

⁹'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9 (NASB)

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁸For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁰For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10 (NASB)

¹⁸'If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before [it hated] you. ¹⁹'If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰'Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

John 15:18-20 (NASB)

¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

Ephesians 5:11 (NASB)

¹⁵'You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.

Leviticus 19:15 (NASB)

Who is my neighbor?

God's greatest commandments are to love Him and to love our neighbors as ourselves. But who is our neighbor? The Bible gives us a clear answer to this question.

¹⁸'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:18 (NASB)

³⁷And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." ³⁸'This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹'The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ⁴⁰'On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.'

Matthew 22:37-40 (NASB)

²⁹But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' ³⁰Jesus replied and said, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. ³¹'And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²'Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³'But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, ³⁴and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on [them]; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵'On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' ³⁶'Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' [hands]?' ³⁷And he said, 'The one who showed mercy toward him.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same.'

Luke 10:29-37 (NASB)

⁸If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,' you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin [and] are convicted by the law as transgressors.

James 2:8-9 (NASB)

²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 (NASB)

¹⁴For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the [statement], 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

Galatians 5:14 (NASB)

⁸Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves

his neighbor has fulfilled [the] law. ⁹For this, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,' and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of [the] law.

Romans 13:8-10 (NASB)

⁴³'You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴'But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 5:43-44 (NASB)

Controversial Passages

¹Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ²He said, 'Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.' ³So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. ⁵Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.' ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' And he said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' ⁸Abraham said, 'God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together. ⁹Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ¹²He said, 'Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.' ¹³Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind [him] a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. ¹⁴Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, 'In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.' ¹⁵Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, 'By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸'In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.' ¹⁹So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba. **Genesis 22:1-19 (NASB)**

¹¹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹²'Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'If any man's wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him,

¹³and a man has intercourse with her and it is hidden from the eyes of her husband and she is undetected, although she has defiled herself, and there is no witness against her and she has not been caught in the act, ¹⁴if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has defiled herself, or if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has not defiled herself, ¹⁵the man shall then bring his wife to the priest, and shall bring [as] an offering for her one-tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he shall not pour oil on it nor put frankincense on it, for it is a grain offering of jealousy, a grain offering of memorial, a reminder of iniquity. ¹⁶'Then the priest shall bring her near and have her stand before the LORD, ¹⁷and the priest shall take holy water in an earthenware vessel; and he shall take some of the dust that is on the floor of the tabernacle and put [it] into the water. ¹⁸'The priest shall then have the woman stand before the LORD and let [the hair of] the woman's head go loose, and place the grain offering of memorial in her hands, which is the grain offering of jealousy, and in the hand of the priest is to be the water of bitterness that brings a curse. ¹⁹'The priest shall have her take an oath and shall say to the woman, 'If no man has lain with you and if you have not gone astray into uncleanness, [being] under [the authority of] your husband, be immune to this water of bitterness that brings a curse; ²⁰if you, however, have gone astray, [being] under [the authority of] your husband, and if you have defiled yourself and a man other than your husband has had intercourse with you' ²¹(then the priest shall have the woman swear with the oath of the curse, and the priest shall say to the woman), 'the LORD make you a curse and an oath among your people by the LORD'S making your thigh waste away and your abdomen swell; ²²and this water that brings a curse shall go into your stomach, and make your abdomen swell and your thigh waste away.' And the woman shall say, 'Amen. Amen.' ²³'The priest shall then write these curses on a scroll, and he shall wash them off into the water of bitterness. ²⁴'Then he shall make the woman drink the water of bitterness that brings a curse, so that the water which brings a curse will go into her and [cause] bitterness. ²⁵'The priest shall take the grain offering of jealousy from the woman's hand, and he shall wave the grain offering before the LORD and bring it to the altar; ²⁶and the priest shall take a handful of the grain offering as its memorial offering and offer [it] up in smoke on the altar, and afterward he shall make the woman drink the water. ²⁷'When he has made her drink the water, then it shall come about, if she has defiled herself and has been unfaithful to her husband, that the water which brings a curse will go into her and [cause] bitterness, and her abdomen will swell and her thigh will waste away, and the woman will become a curse among her people. ²⁸'But if the woman has not defiled herself and is clean, she will then be free and conceive children. ²⁹'This is the law of jealousy: when a wife, [being] under [the authority of] her husband, goes astray and defiles herself, ³⁰or when a spirit of jealousy comes over a man and he is jealous of his wife, he shall then make the woman stand before the LORD, and the priest shall apply all this law to her. ³¹'Moreover, the man will be free from guilt, but that woman shall bear her guilt."

Numbers 5:11-31 (NASB)

⁸Then Judah said to Onan, 'Go in to your brother's wife, and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother.'
⁹Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so when he went in to his brother's wife, he wasted his seed on the ground in order not to give

offspring to his brother. ¹⁰But what he did was displeasing in the sight of the LORD; so He took his life also.

Genesis 38:8-10 (NASB)

⁵'When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be [married] outside [the family] to a strange man. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. ⁶'It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel. ⁷'But if the man does not desire to take his brother's wife, then his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.' ⁸'Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak to him. And [if] he persists and says, 'I do not desire to take her,' ⁹then his brother's wife shall come to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, 'Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.' ¹⁰'In Israel his name shall be called, 'The house of him whose sandal is removed.'

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 (NASB)

OTHER TEXTS

¹'Woe to the rebellious children,' declares the LORD, 'Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin; ²Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! ³'Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation. ⁴'For their princes are at Zoan And their ambassadors arrive at Hanes. ⁵'Everyone will be ashamed because of a people who cannot profit them, [Who are] not for help or profit, but for shame and also for reproach.' ⁶The oracle concerning the beasts of the Negev. Through a land of distress and anguish, From where [come] lioness and lion, viper and flying serpent, They carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys And their treasures on camels' humps, To a people who cannot profit [them];

Isaiah 30:1-6 (NASB)

¹⁹'You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 16:19 (NASB)

Appendix 1

God's Morality Written into US Law

Although the United States is not a theocracy, the moral code of the Bible has been written into the laws of the land over time. The law is a tutor for morality and the Bible is the ultimate source of morality. Below are some examples of how the Bible has influenced US law.

Murder and Theft

Murder: "The unlawful killing of a human being by another with malice aforethought, either express or implied."

Manslaughter: "The unlawful killing of another without malice, either express or implied; which may be either voluntarily, upon a sudden heat, or involuntarily, but in the commission of some unlawful act." ¹

¹ Black's Law Dictionary. (1968). 4th ed. West Publishing Co.

Unborn Victims Act of 1994

* Outlined further in chapter X.

Thou shalt not steal

Perjury and False Witness

Exodus 20:16

Marriage and Family

Appendix 1: Abortion Discussion Questions

FAKE TEXT

Chapter 1: Inherent Value

1. First question about it blah blah blah

Chapter 2: Moral Considerations

1. What are the moral implications of abortion?
2. How do different ethical frameworks approach the issue of abortion?

Chapter 3: Legal Perspectives

1. How have abortion laws changed over time?
2. What are the key legal arguments for and against abortion?

Chapter 4: Societal Impact

1. How does abortion affect society as a whole?
2. What are the social consequences of restricting or allowing abortion?

Chapter 5: Personal Stories

1. How do personal experiences shape views on abortion?
2. What can we learn from the stories of those who have been affected by abortion?