When Does Life Begin?

Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him. (Psalm 127:3–4)

See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven (Matthew 18:10)



But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16)

Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost (Matthew 18:14)

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In the Philippines in 1986, Pam Tebow contracted amoebic dysentery, possibly from contaminated drinking water. She fell into a coma and received strong drugs to fight the infection.

It turned out she was pregnant with her fifth child.

The drugs caused the placenta to detach from the uterine wall, depriving the "fetus" of oxygen.

When it was realized that she was pregnant, doctors stopped the drugs but said that *the high doses of medicine had already damaged the "fetus."*

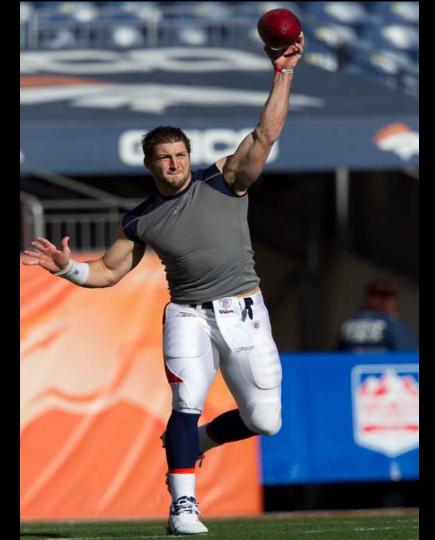
According to the doctor, the "mass of fetal tissue" or "tumor"—me had to go. Tim Tebow, Through My Eyes

Tim was born Aug. 14, 1987. The doctor said to his parents: "Only a small part of the placenta was attached, but it was just enough to keep your baby nourished all these months."

Pam Tebow:

"We were concerned at first because he was so malnourished."

What if the doctors had been right all along?



The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who ves whim sight or makes him blind? Is it of I, the LORD?" (Exodus 4:11)

How do we answer this question? "I oppose abortion except in cases of rape, incest and danger to the life of the mother." Should the baby be punished for the father's sin? Don't inflict upon the innocent child rage against the rapist. The violence of abortion parallels the violence of rape. Regardless of the motive, the strong brutalize the weak. A child is a child, regardless of the sins of her father. (Randy Alcorn)

Abortion does not bring healing to a rape victim. It does nothing bad to the rapist and nothing good for the woman. Creating a second victim doesn't undue the damage to the first. Feminists for Life: "Some women have reported suffering from the trauma of abortion long after the rape trauma has faded."

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus....

"How will this be...since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

"Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was unable to conceive is in her sixth month..." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me **be fulfilled."** Then the angel left her.

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea [8-10 days], where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

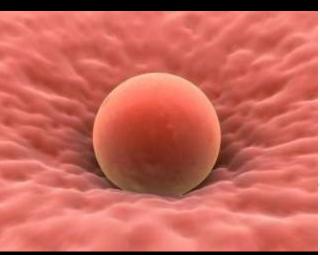
In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. (Luke 1:29-44)

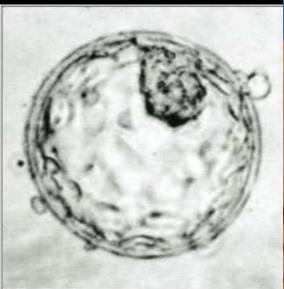
Summary: After the angel left, Mary hurried (v. 39) to get to Elizabeth. Unborn John the Baptist (in his sixth month after conception) responded to the presence of unborn Jesus inside Mary. Allowing for travel, Jesus was no more than eight to ten days beyond *conception* when this happened....

Implantation doesn't begin until 6 days after conception, and remains incomplete till 12. Jesus was not fully implanted in his mother's womb when unborn John responded to his presence.

In Luke 1, a fetus named John responded to the presence of a blastocyst (pre-embryo), named

Jesus.





In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1,14).

When did the Word become flesh? When did He leave heaven and come to earth? At conception. Christ's incarnation came 9 months before Christmas.







In the womb he [Jacob] grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God (Hosea 12:3).

Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me? Remember that you molded me like clay.

Did you not ...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 (Job 10:8–12).

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfull / and wonderfully made.... 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, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be (Psalm 139:13–16).





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. (Jeremiah 1:5)

Surely I was sinful at birth *sinful from the time my mother conceived me.* (Psalm 51:5)





And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. ... from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man (Genesis 9:5).

Do this **so that innocent blood will** not be shed in your land, which the LORD your God is giving you as your inheritance, and so that you will not be guilty of bloodshed (Deuteronomy 19:10).

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. (Psalm 82:3)

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31:8-9)

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)