

## TAKING LIFE SERIOUSLY

### JEREMIAH 1:5

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*Jeremiah 1:4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

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#### Introduction

Throughout the world today, churches from many denominations are joining together to promote “Sanctity of Life” Sunday.

We will look at a few verses today to discuss this point, but it is important to notice in this passage that Jeremiah’s birth fits in the sovereign purpose of God.

Before we begin, take a pencil and circle the following words in your Bible.

- Circle the word “before” – you will notice it is used twice. This moves us back in time from the point of conception to sometime in eternity past.
- Circle the word “I” – notice it is used four times to indicate that God is not only the one speaking these words, but He is the one at work in the womb.
- Circle the word “you” and you will notice that it is used five times. This shows us that what is in the womb is a person; not a blob or a bunch of cells.

Notice the following points concerning Jeremiah’s birth.

The LORD (Jehovah) is involved.

*Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying* – It is no wonder that Jeremiah used the name Jehovah in the fourth verse. Jehovah is the “personal, covenant keeping” name of God.

God does not just sit on a throne and rule the cosmos. He also is the God that knows when a sparrow dies and he has numbered the hairs on our heads. He is Elohim, the mighty and powerful God of creation, but He is also Jehovah, the God who hears your prayers and loves you so much that He sent His Son to die in your place.

*5 Before I formed thee in the belly*– Jeremiah was the product of the union between his father Hilkiah the priest and his mother. But God explains to Jeremiah that before that union took place, “I knew thee.” The process of procreation then is not just about the man and woman, but God has an active role as well.

The Hebrew word for formed, *yatsar* refers to “molding into form as a potter works clay.” The LORD is the active force in the development of the child in the womb. Isn’t that amazing?

We can draw from this that the LORD is equally active in the womb of every mother at conception. That is how much He cares for you. God had a plan for Jeremiah, and He has a plan for every child, no matter the circumstances.

#### The LORD Knew Him

*...I knew thee* – Humans are complex. They are made up of trillions of cells and have systems, like blood, skeletal, digestive, nervous and respiratory. Humans are unique among all other life forms on earth

as they have language, endowed with intelligence enabling them to think and reason. They are able to create and learn from experience.

My wife and I can sometimes finish each other's sentences; we know each other that well. But I will be honest, there are times when I realize that I don't know her very well at all. And I am sure if you asked her, she would tell you the same thing.

The LORD says "*I knew thee.*" We are told in Romans 8:29, that it is God's will that every believer to be conformed to the image of God:

*Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.,*

God formed Jeremiah and you and I today. He knew Jeremiah just as He knows you and I as well. We were made to be conformed into the image of Christ as the "firstborn" of all nations.

What would God know? I am glad you asked because as we read on, we find out.

### The LORD Sanctified Him

*...and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee* – From the time a child is born, they begin learn. They learn that if they are hungry, if they cry, they will be fed. They learned that they will be cared for. As we grow, we learn more and more each day.

When my children were born, I couldn't wait until they grew up. I wanted to experience life with them. I wanted to teach them all the wisdom that my father had passed down to me. I wanted them to have a better life than I had. I wanted my children to know that life does not give handouts, but through hard work and persistence, they could make a living and leave their mark on society.

I wanted them to know where they came from. I wanted them to know their families and the history of the Crowder's. They were not "Jones's" or "Kennedy's" or "Smith's." They were Crowder's.

I wanted to teach them about the LORD. I wanted each of my children to learn about God and His plan of salvation. I wanted to show them what the love of God was like. I wanted them to experience salvation.

That is the idea of this statement, "I sanctified thee." God had already set Jeremiah's life into motion inside the womb. Sanctified means simply "*set apart.*" Jeremiah was *set apart* to do the work of the LORD, even before he took his first breath.

God set Jeremiah apart for a significant and holy purpose. You and I are no different. God has a special purpose for each of us. Every Christian is given God's grace and He bestows upon us gifts in order to accomplish His plan through us. We are sanctified, set apart to do His great work.

### The LORD Ordained Him

*I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations* - While not everyone born of a woman was ordained to be a prophet of God, Jeremiah was.

We hold in our hands the very Word of God this morning. The Bible is the Word of the LORD. There must be a reason that the LORD put this book concerning this Prophet in the Holy Bible. Why are we let into the life and times of Jeremiah the prophet of God?

The reason for Jeremiah's birth was to be the spokesperson for the Creator to the "nations." If you read through the book of Jeremiah, you will find out that much of his prophecies to the nations were

pronouncements of judgment. Jeremiah is known as the “weeping prophet” because of the messages he had to deliver from God. Jeremiah was born for a purpose; it was “ordained” before he was born.

Ordained simply means to “appoint, allow or bestow upon.” When God called me to preach, I was “appointed and the title of Pastor was bestowed upon me to allow me to do the ministry of the LORD. I was ordained by Open Door Baptist Church, in Augusta, GA. Ordination in this sense is both spiritual and governmental. Spiritual in that I was being set-apart for the service of full time ministry by that church and it was governmental meaning that the government would accept my ordination in the matters of performing marriages.

Jeremiah was “appointed, allowed and the ministry of prophet was bestowed upon” him while he was still in the womb.

May I say this morning that every Christian is “ordained and sanctified!” Christians are destined to more than to make an honest living, raise a family, enjoy retirement, and die.

When Jesus was leaving the earth to return to heaven, He left the disciples with a ministry. And every Christian is called by Jesus Christ to full time ministry.

*Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Every one of you is called to a ministry.

Conclusion

Let us review this message:

The LORD has an unshakable and sovereign purpose for each one of you today. If you are a Christian you have a ministry that God is allowing you to fulfill.

*1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

You are not your own. You are God's. You are God-made and designed. You are not an accident. You are a design. Your life in the womb is the design of God.

This leads us right into the first truth this passage teaches.

*The preborn are people.* We see this in the very first phrase: “I formed you in the womb.” Before Jeremiah was even conceived, God knew him as a person. The word “formed” is the Hebrew word used to describe the creative work of a potter as he molds and shapes a piece of clay. It means to squeeze into a predetermined shape. It’s also the same word found in Genesis 2:7 where we read that the “Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground...” Just as God purposefully formed Adam from the dust of the earth, so too He does His creative work in the womb.

*Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

Nothing is hidden from God. He personally begins knitting our body in place weaving them together to form His living masterpiece.

May we affirm today that every person from conception on, is an image bearer of God, stamped with divine dignity and worthy of protection.

*The preborn are preknown.* “I knew you.” The idea is that God has a close personal commitment and intimate relationship with the person He creates, even before He creates them.

*The preborn are prized.* “I set you apart.” This verb was used of setting something or someone apart for a specific and special use. Even before Jeremiah was born, he was set apart for a special task. God did the same thing with Paul in Galatians 1:15: “...God, who set me apart from birth...”

*The preborn have a purpose.* “I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah had a job to do and so do you!

God ordained Jeremiah and each one of us today to:

Go to everyone God sends you to.

Speak whatever God wants you to say.

In your going and speaking, don't be afraid because God is with you.

God will give you the words to say.

The ushers are going to come in right now but before you think we're taking another offering because the first one wasn't big enough, you can relax. Instead of collecting your money, the ushers will be passing the plate filled with pennies. I'd like each of you to take a penny out of the plate.

The penny you hold in your hand represents a life created by God – a real person who is pre-known, who is prized by God and planned with a purpose. Whenever you see a penny from now on, I want you to think of a preborn baby. But instead of viewing a penny as having little or no value, remember that a human soul is of immeasurable worth in the sight of God. In fact, we can't even put a price on life.