

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Dec 2012.....Hosea 1:1-3:5..... Exposing a Broken Relationship
- 2) 09 DecHosea 4:1-7:16..... Rebuking Destructive Behavior
- 3) 16 DecHosea 8:1-10:15..... Deciding on Discipline
- 4) 23 DecMatthew 1:18-2:18..... Seeking the Savior
- 5) 30 DecHosea 11:1-12:14..... Remembering Compassion
- 6) 06 Jan 2013.....Hosea 13:1-14:9..... Restoring the Repentant
- 7) 13 JanAmos 1:1-4:13..... Unseal the Indictment
- 8) 20 Jan..... Gen 1; Ex 1, Ps 139; Mk 10..... Value of Human Life
- 9) 27 JanAmos 5:1-6:14..... Court is in Session
- 10) 03 Feb.....Amos 7:1-17..... Can I Get a Witness
- 11) 10 Feb.....Amos 8:1-9:15..... Let the Verdict be Read
- 12) 17 Feb.....Jonah 1:1-2:10..... Pursuing Those Called to Tell
- 13) 24 Feb.....Jonah 3:1-4:11..... Pursuing Those Who Need to Hear

INTRODUCTION

• This is the time that Southern Baptists highlight the value of life.
Historical Note: A papyrus from Egypt, dated 1 B.C., illustrates the pagan attitude of infanticide. Hilarion writes a letter to his wife, Alis: *“I beg and entreat you, take care of the little one, and as soon as we receive our pay I will send it up to you. If by chance you bear a child, if it is a boy, let it be, if it is a girl, expose it.”* (P. Oxy. 744).

The Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans of this time period often exposed and abandoned unwanted infants. Infanticide was their answer to overpopulation. Abortions were frequently attempted, but often were fatal to the mother. More frequent was the exposure of the newborn child. The unwanted child was simply left to die on a trash heap or in some isolated place. Sometimes traders, who happened upon it, would take the child to be reared in slavery. Girls were vulnerable for a life of prostitution (see Justin, Apology 1.27). Jewish law, in contrast, prohibited abortion and exposure; a position adopted also by Christians. See <http://andynaselli.com/infanticide-comparing-ancient-greco-roman-practices-with-modern-america>

• Throughout history only Jewish and Christian believers have consistently and zealously fought to rescue the weak from destruction while others have callously sought their demise for profit or convenience

Passage	Comments
Genesis 1:26-31	<p>God Made Men And Women In His Image</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of God's image, which we all possess, include logic & reason; language; capacity to worship; self-awareness; ability to love; moral accountability, ability to rule or manage the world's resources... • Both male and female, young and old, white and black possess God's image – THEREFORE, humans should be treated with the highest respect no matter the race, gender, or age • What happens when this perspective is distorted? Extremes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Taliban mistreatment of women (no education and no public visibility) ♦ Euthanasia (aka assisted suicide) for the elderly and infirmed (legal in Oregon, Washington, Belgium) ♦ Abortion for the sake of profit and convenience ♦ Slavery for the weak and vulnerable
Exodus 1:8-22	<p>Sanctioned Infanticide Destroys a Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egypt of old tried the following to curtail Israel's growth <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implemented hard labor (no time for family).... v11 2. Slaughtered newborn sons (selective abortion) . v16 3. Slaughtered sons outright (infanticide) v22 • Have we also progressed from the once subtle approach to more overt infant & elderly killings today – from Planned Parenthood's contraceptives to legalized abortions, abortifacients, and assisted suicides?

Passage	Comments
Psalms 139:13-16	<p>God's Sovereignty Over Every Birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This passage highlights the wonders of embryonic development – and God's involvement • We are not human tissue to be discarded like garbage, but purposefully made to fulfill a specific plan by God (<i>“My days were ordained for me before there was even one”</i>) • When we disrupt God's intent for someone's life (including our own) through murder (suicide) or sin, we do not thwart God's sovereign will, but we do shortchange ourselves and we impact others for generations
Mark 10:13-16	<p>Jesus Blessed Little Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jews of Jesus' day, like us even today, had to fight secular and their own sin-damaged perspectives that women and children, foreigners and the handicapped were commodities to be used & abused • Jesus, slowly but surely, got the point across to His disciples that vulnerable members of society are actually held in very high esteem by God • And as the Church bloomed into maturity, women and kids, foreigners and the handicapped would have equal footing before the Cross – though struggles still persist • vv14-15. Jesus portrayed the Kingdom of God as a place for those who were kind-hearted, loving and lovable, honest, inquisitive, and pure like children • v16. Jesus blessed them specifically, individually and with a personable touch (<i>“He took them in His arms”</i>)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- What more can we do to save the unborn, the severely infirmed, the elderly, and those caught up in human trafficking from suffering and even from an early death?
 - ♦ Pray more (but for what specifics?) Yes | No
 - ♦ Stay alert (How?)..... Yes | No
 - ♦ Give Support to worthy causes (Time & \$\$\$)..... Yes | No
 - ♦ Ignore the problem and hope it goes away Yes | No
 - ♦ Let someone else do the work..... Yes | No
- And have we gone overboard by prolonging some life far beyond reasonable measures? (e.g., 80% of all healthcare costs are expended in the last 6 months of life)

NEXT WEEK: **Amos 5-6.** The question of 'why would God punish Israel so severely for their sins' is not nearly as significant as "why did God wait so long to punish Israel – till they "turned justice into poison"

