



EXODUS

A STORY OF
**REDEMPTION
AND COVENANT**



God Keeps His Promises

- God keeps His promises
- Exodus 1:1–14; Romans 5:3–5; James 1:2–4
- God's people went to Egypt for a good reason, to be saved from falling into poverty or even death during the famine (Genesis 45:11).
- Joseph was Pharaoh's right-hand man, lord over all of Egypt, the one place that had stored up food for the famine because God revealed it to Joseph through Pharaoh's dreams

God Keeps His Promises

- God supernaturally saved them from the famine by taking them there, and Joseph gave them their own district, Goshen, so they could live in Egypt but remain separate from the Egyptians.
- Joseph told Pharaoh that his family were shepherds, which made them “abominations” to the Egyptians and required them to live in a separate area (Genesis 46:31–34). This was good for the Israelites; it was like having their own land within Egypt.
- It was almost as if they were an independent nation.

God Keeps His Promises

- Joseph's presence in Egypt was a natural result of his brothers' sin of selling him into slavery.
- Yet God redeemed that situation and used it for good (Genesis 50:20)
- One natural consequence of their sin was that they were now living in a foreign land.
- That eventually created a problem for them when a new pharaoh arose who didn't know Joseph.

God Keeps His Promises

- God blessed His people in Egypt. They multiplied greatly and grew “exceedingly strong.”
- God was fulfilling His promise to Abraham to make him a great nation. But this made them a threat to Pharaoh.
- He was afraid they might rebel against him and join his enemies to fight against him. So he made them slaves.
- Pharaoh’s treatment of Israel was nothing short of horrible – slavery, oppression, genocide.

God Keeps His Promises

- The irony is that Pharaoh was trying to weaken Israel by making them slaves, but God only made them stronger.
- The more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied.
- Paul tells us that suffering produces perseverance, character and hope.
- The word he uses for character in Greek means “proving” or “approval” that is “(the result of) trial.”
- Its very definition includes this truth that suffering grows our character.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- God calls us to fear Him, not human authorities
- Exodus 1:15–21; Proverbs 1:7; Matthew 10:2
- Pharaoh enslaved the people of Israel, but they only grew stronger.
- Then he decided the only way to weaken them was to kill the male babies at birth. He could let the women live because women weren't a threat to his power, but when those boys grew up, they could be.
- Ironically, it was the women who worked against Pharaoh's plans.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- Scripture doesn't let these two midwives go unnamed in the story. Their names are "fairness" and "brilliance."
- Scripture tells us that these women disobeyed Pharaoh's command to kill the male Hebrew babies because they feared God. This is the first act of peaceful civil disobedience we see in Scripture, and it was to protect human life. The text supports disobeying government authorities if its commands conflict with obedience to God.
- Daniel and his friends did the same thing during the Babylonian exile when they were asked to bow down to idols.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- In Romans Paul told God's people to obey the Roman government because all human authority has been established by God (Romans 13:1–5).
- Rome was in power over the Jews because God allowed it, so they didn't need to rebel against the government God had established.
- At other times, we see God's people peacefully disobey human authorities when they were commanded to do something against God's will, such as committing infanticide and idolatry.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- But these midwives didn't openly refuse to comply.
- They lied to Pharaoh about it. They told him the Hebrew women gave birth so quickly they couldn't get to them in time.
- This explanation helps us understand what was going on a bit more clearly.
- Pharaoh wasn't openly killing these babies.
- He wanted the midwives to do it during the birthing process, so the women thought their babies were dying at or before birth.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- Either way, whether they rebelled openly or lied about it, they chose to obey God over human authority.
- They chose to fear God rather than people, as Jesus taught in Matthew 10:28. This wasn't an easy choice for them. Pharaoh easily could have had them killed for what they did.
- Scripture tells us that because they feared God and disobeyed Pharaoh, God “dealt well with” the midwives. He multiplied the people and made them strong, and He gave the midwives families of their own.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- All of Scripture implores us to fear God.
- This doesn't mean to be afraid of Him; it means respecting His authority as the only God and Lord of all. It means honoring Him as God. That means worshipping Him alone
- The Law tells us that fear of the Lord is what the Lord requires of us, and it describes what that looks like – to walk in obedience to Him, love Him, and serve Him with all our hearts (Deuteronomy 10:12–22).

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- Proverbs tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).
- We must start there by recognizing that God is the one true God and the source of wisdom, or we will never have true wisdom.
- When we fear the Lord and walk in His ways, we naturally will be blessed simply because His ways are the best way to live.
- We will have better natural results in our lives if we fear the Lord than if we walk in our own ways.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- Again, it is women who did the rescuing and disobeyed Pharaoh.
- First, Moses' mother disobeyed, kept her son, and hid him for three months until she couldn't hide him anymore.
- Then Pharaoh's daughter herself also participated in the civil disobedience. This was a bold move. She wouldn't have been immune to punishment from Pharaoh. He may have been even more incensed to find out that his own child had disobeyed his command.
- Yet she saved Moses anyway and even adopted him as her son.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- Extra biblical Jewish literature makes some guesses about her motivation, and some even say she was a believer in Yahweh instead of the Egyptian gods.
- We don't know if she had come to faith in Israel's God or was just a compassionate Gentile who didn't support her father's cruel law.
- Either way, she had the boldness to stand up to him in a public way. Pharaoh's daughter raised him as her own – in Pharaoh's palace.
- We know later in the story that Moses knew he was a Hebrew (2:11).

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- The word for “basket” here is the same word used for “ark” in account of the flood. It is only used in these two places; the word for “ark” of the covenant is different.
- The link between the two uses of “ark” would be clear if we were reading in Hebrew.
- Just as God rescued one family from the flood waters via an ark to start humanity over again. God rescued this one child from infanticide via an ark in the waters of the Nile to start a new nation of His people living in His kingdom by His covenant law.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- Moses' mother obeyed Pharaoh's command to a degree.
- She did put her baby in the Nile.
- But instead of throwing him in, she gently placed him in a well-protected waterproof ark and set it among the reeds by the bank, not out in the flowing river.
- Moses' mother saved him, but even more, God did.
- Anyone could have found that basket and thrown Moses into the Nile instead of keeping him.

God Calls Us to Fear Him

- But God brought the compassionate Pharaoh's daughter to that bank, preserved his life, and even put him in the Pharaoh's house under the care of his compassionate daughter.
- There he would learn things about the ways of Pharaoh and the Egyptians that would help him later when he came back to confront the next Pharaoh and demand the release of God's people.
- God took Joseph's brothers' sin against him and worked it for good, to save many lives, including his family (Genesis 50:20).

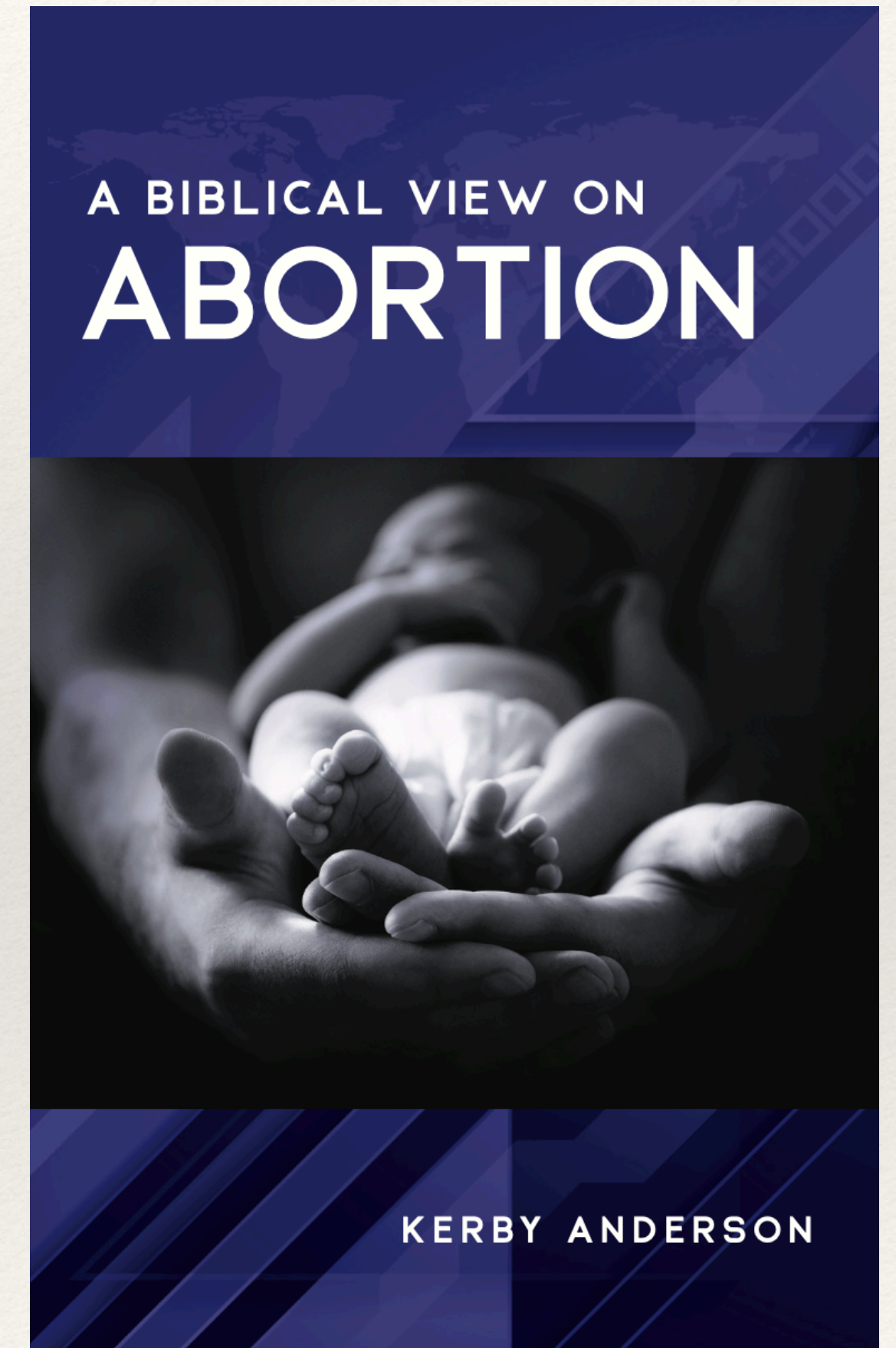
Applications:

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Civil disobedience

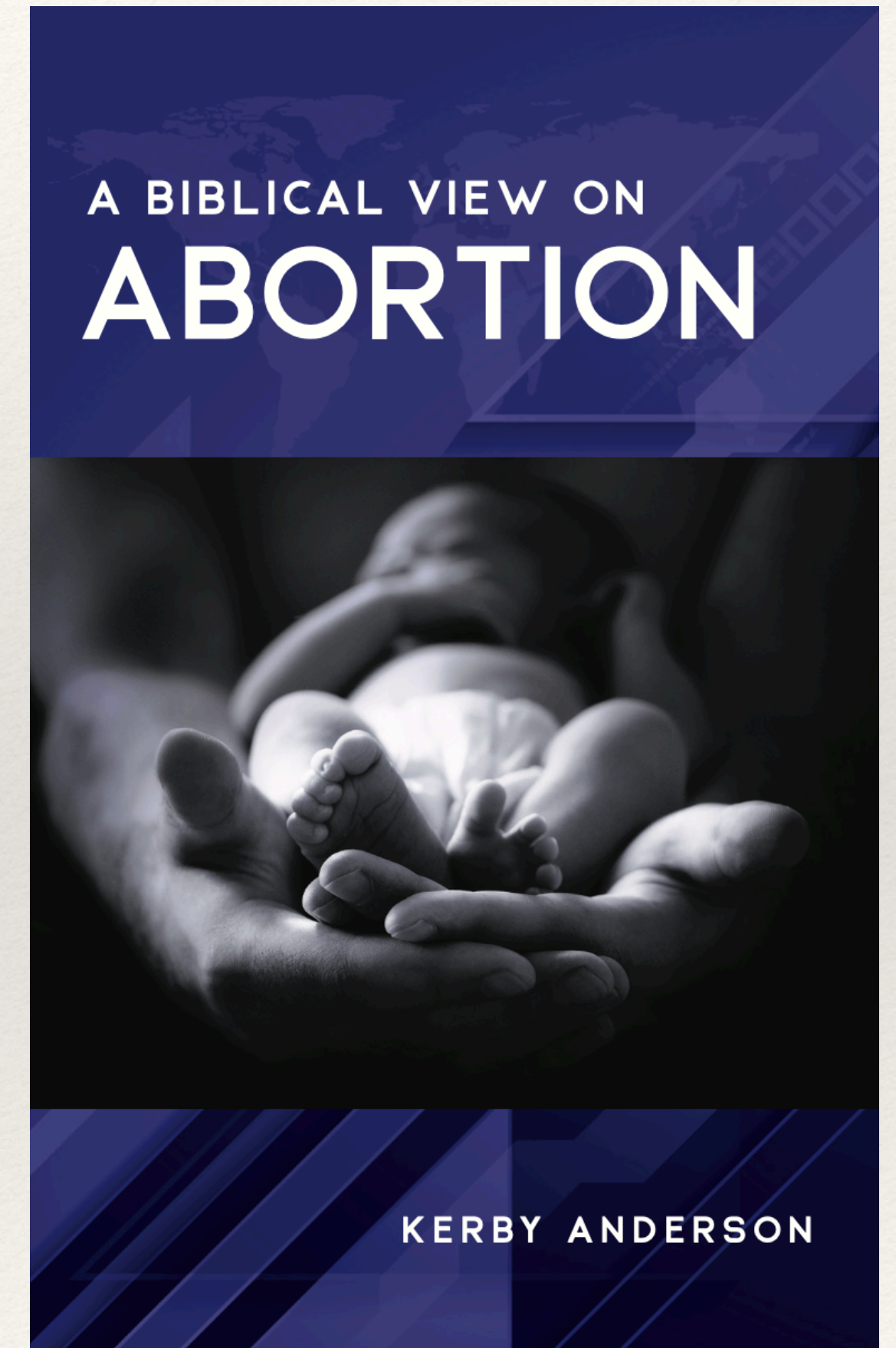
Abortion

- The Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* (1973) made abortion legal.
- The recent Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v. Jackson* (2022) overturned the Roe decision.
- *LifeNews* - “Dobbs is Saving Tens of Thousands of Babies From Abortion.”
- Quentin Fulks, Biden’s deputy campaign manager said the president’s top priority was to restore *Roe v. Wade*.



Abortion

- Biblical arguments against abortion (Psalm 139)
- Medical arguments against abortion (genetically distinct, definitions of life and death)
- Legal arguments against abortion (legal proof of life)
- Philosophical arguments against abortion
- What about exceptions?
- Additional resources on life and abortion



Civil Disobedience

- History of civil disobedience
- Biblical examples of civil disobedience
 - Exodus 1-2
 - Daniel 3
 - Acts 4-5
- Biblical principles for civil disobedience
- Additional resources

