

# A STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT ISSUE OF ABORTION IN OUR COUNTRY

BY DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SANCTITY OF LIFE DAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

[General inspirational sources are end noted while specific quotes and references are footnoted.]

The *Roe v. Wade* decision wasn't the biggest news on the day it was announced, Jan. 22, 1973. Former President Lyndon Baines Johnson died on the same day, and his death dominated the next morning's newspapers.

Today, we do not speak much of the presidents passing—we speak of a decision passed by the then US SUPREME COURT, that legalized *Roe v. Wade* and has resulted in deaths of almost 63,000,000 lives since then.

The current US SUPREME COURT heard arguments last month (December 2021) regarding two challenges—one in Texas and one in Mississippi. The Texas law banning most abortions is known as SB 8, the law was signed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in May 2021. It prohibits abortions starting around the sixth week of pregnancy (when doctors can detect fetal cardiac activity). The law is already having a pronounced effect: in September, abortions in Texas dropped 50 percent<sup>1</sup> compared to the same month the year before. The actual number dropped from 5,377 in August to 2,164 in September; a difference of 3,213 precious lives. Ironically, requests to place children up for adoption rose significantly, as well, during this time.

While SB 8 does not strike at the legality of abortion itself, another case (*Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*<sup>2</sup>) does. Initial arguments were also heard before the US SUPREME COURT last month (December 2022) and is intended to challenge *Roe v. Wade*. THE WASHINGTON POST describes these cases as the “most dramatic reckoning for abortion rights in decades.”<sup>3</sup>

It is a staggering and grievous fact: an estimated 62 million abortions have occurred<sup>4</sup> in the US since *Roe v. Wade* was legalized abortion in 1973. This number is equivalent to the populations of Alabama, Louisiana, Kentucky, Oregon, Oklahoma, Connecticut, Utah, Iowa, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kansas, New Mexico, Nebraska, Idaho, West Virginia, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Montana, Delaware, South Dakota, Alaska, Vermont, Wyoming and Nevada—*combined*.

In 1973, Justice Harry Blackmun asserted in *Roe*, “We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy, and theology are unable to arrive at any consensus, the judiciary, at this point in the development of man's knowledge, is not in a position to speculate as to the answer.”<sup>5</sup>

That was then—this is now.

A diagnostic radiologist named Grazie Pozo Christie recently published a fascinating article in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL titled, “The Obsolete Science Behind *Roe v. Wade*.”<sup>6</sup> She explains that ultrasound technology was in its extreme infancy in the 1970s. However, today's complex and sophisticated three-dimensional imaging technology makes clear “the liveliness and humanity of babies at fifteen weeks of gestation—the age at which Mississippi—the other case before the US Supreme COURT—proposes to protect them from elective termination.”

She describes their major organs as “formed and functioning,” their sex as “easy to discern,” their heart as “fully formed and pumping blood 120-180 bpm,” their fetal spine as “a marvel of intricacy,” and their face as clear “in all its detail.” She summarizes: “Clearly human, clearly alive, no longer mysteriously hidden from the eyes and knowledge of man, they ask us to consider them not disposable nonhumans but valuable members of our human family.”

As I (Pastor Joe) says, “It's no longer simply ‘the potential for life’ but ‘life full of potential.’”

---

<sup>1</sup> “Abortions Fell by half in Month After New Texas Law,” Article by Claire Cain Miller, Quoc Trung Bui and Margot Sanger-Kate, October 29, 2021, writing for THE NEW YORK TIMES. (Specific Web Address: [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/10/29/upshot/texas-abortion-data.html?utm\\_source=Pew+Research+Center&utm\\_campaign=dc79deb55a-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_10\\_29\\_01\\_47&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3e953b9b70-dc79deb55a-400759697](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/10/29/upshot/texas-abortion-data.html?utm_source=Pew+Research+Center&utm_campaign=dc79deb55a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_10_29_01_47&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3e953b9b70-dc79deb55a-400759697))

<sup>2</sup> SCOTUSblog: *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. (Specific Web Address: <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-organization/>)

<sup>3</sup> “Supreme Court Embarks on the Most Dramatic Reckoning for Abortions Rights in Decades,” by Robert Barnes, October 30, 2021, writing for THE WASHINGTON POST. (Specific Web Address: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts\\_law/supreme-court-abortion/2021/10/30/13f53be2-3830-11ec-9bc4-86107e7b0ab1\\_story.html?utm\\_source=Pew+Research+Center&utm\\_campaign=ee4cabb66c-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_01\\_01\\_52&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts_law/supreme-court-abortion/2021/10/30/13f53be2-3830-11ec-9bc4-86107e7b0ab1_story.html?utm_source=Pew+Research+Center&utm_campaign=ee4cabb66c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_01_01_52&utm_medium=email))

<sup>4</sup> “An Estimated 62 Million Abortions have Occurred Since *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973,” by Sam Dormon, January 22, 2021, writing for FOX NEWS. (Specific Web Address: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/abortions-since-roe-v-wade>).

<sup>5</sup> JUSTIA, US Supreme Court (Records), *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1972). (Specific Web Address: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/410/113/#tab-opinion-1950137>).

<sup>6</sup> “The Obsolete Science Behind *Roe v. Wade*,” by Grazie Pozo Christie, Oct. 28, 2021, writing for THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. (Specific Web Address: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-obsolete-science-behind-roe-v-wade-abortion-fetus-supreme-court-ultrasound-11635449644>).

Scripture attests, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3). There are no exceptions: “No creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13).

Around 385,000 babies are born each day worldwide. On November 14, 2021 Analia Acevedo Castañeda was one of them.<sup>7</sup> She was, however, the only one I know of to be born on an airplane.

Her mother went into premature labor an hour into their flight heading home to North Carolina from Mexico. A newly certified registered nurse on board helped her for more than three hours until the plane landed at the Atlanta International Airport. First responders then found the mother lying on the floor in the back of the plane and decided to deliver the baby there. When she was born, one of the flight attendants took the microphone to announce, “We have a baby girl.”

If the mother had chosen abortion, her “baby girl” would have become a “fetus” and her life would have ended in a legally protected act. If, however, her mother had been murdered and the unborn child had died, that child would have been recognized as a legal victim as well.

Whether the “baby girl” was murdered with her mother, her mother aborted her, or her mother gave birth to her, nothing whatsoever about Analia herself would have changed—except whether she lived or died.

Illogical and unbelievable, if you fully consider it. Herein lies the tragic contradiction inherent in *Roe v. Wade* and the abortion license it grants.

Pro-life supporters should be praying for the justices in these crucial days of personal and private deliberations (1 Timothy 2:1–2), asking God to guide their minds and, where necessary, change their views and hearts (cf. Proverbs 16:9).

Hear me: I am passionately convinced on biblical, biological, logical, and legal grounds that life begins at conception and abortion is therefore the taking of an innocent human life. I am therefore praying for an end to the tragedy of abortion in America and am profoundly grateful to all who are working sacrificially to that end. I further ask each of us to add this issue of abortion to our prayer times at 7:14am and 7:14pm every day. Please, join me in praying for the sanctity and survival of human life and our fight for that all human life.

According to the word of God, every human is created in our Creator’s image and likeness (Genesis 1:27). Each of us can say with the prophet, “The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name” (Isaiah 49:1).

Legalized abortion is a tragic symptom of the foundational spiritual disease of our culture—we have walked away from God and we have certainly built our house upon the sand.

A best friend of mine recently learned he would become a grandfather. Filled with joy, he wrote these words, he titled this brief poem, “A Prayer for My Grandbaby.” It reads,

All is Sacred, Sacred within the womb.

Handwoven by the Creator, on His miraculous loom.

Our Lord dwells in this tiniest of temples. How glorious isn’t it.

Blessed is the one who lives there; body, mind, soul, and spirit.<sup>8</sup>

PRIMARY SOURCES PROVIDING INSPIRATION:

THE DENISON FORUM (numerous articles) by Dr. Jim Denison

“Abortion—A Radical Look at an Emotional Issue,” by Dr. R.C. Sproul

The Case for Life—Equipping Christians to Engage Their Culture,” by Scott Klusendorf

“Their Blood Cries Out,” by Dr. Troy Newman

*Specific quotes and/or recourses are footnoted.*

<sup>7</sup> “Mother Who Gave Birth on a Plane Thanks First Responders Who Delivered Baby,” by Nickle Acevedo, November 25, 2021, writing for **Yahoo!Life**. (Specific Web Address: <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/mother-gave-birth-plane-thanks-173300703.html?.tsrc=1013&guccounter=1>).

<sup>8</sup> Source: “A Prayer for my Grandbaby,” a poem, © 2021 by Dr. Gerard Hershewe, DO, a very dear friend; this poem is printed and used here with his specific permission.