

~ABORTION (228)

[Hebrew *sha-khal'*, suffer an abortion, *yoh-tse 'there*, abortion, come out, *ne'phel*, fall]

- The expulsion of an embryo or fetus before it can live on its own. Common use often distinguishes between *abortion* and *miscarriage*, the former being defined as the deliberate and induced emptying of a pregnant uterus, the latter being considered as the accidental and unavoidable interruption of pregnancy. The distinction between abortion and miscarriage is not made in the Bible, there the terms are used in a broader and interchangeable sense. The Hebrew *sha-khal'*, meaning, *suffer an abortion*.
- Neither a woman suffering an abortion nor a barren woman will exist in your land. I shall make the number of your days full. (Exodus 23:26)
- Is also rendered, *bereave*.
- Outdoors a sword will *bereave* them, and indoors fright, of both young man and virgin, suckling together with gray-haired man. (Deuteronomy 32:25)
- Bereave of children.
- And I will send the wild beasts of the field among you, and they will certainly bereave you of children and cut off your domestic animals and reduce the number of you, and your roads will actually be desolated. (Leviticus 26:22)
- Miscarry.
- Give to them, O Yehowah, what you should give. Give them a miscarrying womb and breasts shriveling up. (Hosea 9:14)
- And prove fruitless.
- And I will rebuke for you the devouring one, and it will not ruin for you the fruit of the ground, nor will the vine in the field prove fruitless for you, Yehowah of armies has said. (Malachi 3:11)
- The Hebrew word *yoh-tse 'th*, rendered *abortion* in,

- Our cattle loaded down, without any rupture and with no abortion, and with no outcry in our public squares. (**Psalms 144:14**)
- Is from a root meaning, **come out**.
- Now it came about as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, yes, it indeed came about when Jacob had barely come out from before the face of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came back from his hunting. (**Genesis 27:30**)
- The expressions, **miscarriage** and **one prematurely born**.
- Like a snail melting away he walks, like a miscarriage of a woman they will certainly not behold the sun. (**Psalms 58:8**)
- If a man should become a father a hundred times, and he should live many years, so that numerous the days of his years should become, yet his own soul is not satisfied with good things and even the grave has not become his, I must say that one prematurely born is better off than he is. (**Ecclesiastes 6:3**)
- Render the **Hebrew** word *ne'phel*, which comes from the root *na-phal'*, meaning, **fall**.
- We have become pregnant, we have had labor pains, as it were, we have given birth to wind. No real salvation do we accomplish as regards the land, and no inhabitants for the productive land proceed to fall in birth. (**Isaiah 26:18**)
- Unavoidable abortion or miscarriage may be caused by accident, infectious disease, mental or physical stress and strain, or because of a general organic weakness on the part of the mother. The waters near Jericho were death dealing, causing miscarriages, until Yehowah's prophet Elisha healed them.
- In time the men of the city said to Elisha; Here, now, the situation of the city is good, just as my master is seeing, but the water is bad, and the land is causing **miscarriages**. (**2 Kings 2:19**)
- At that he said; Fetch me a small new bowl and put salt in it. So they fetched it for him. (**2 Kings 2:20**)
- Then he went on out to the source of the water and threw salt in

it and said; This is what Yehowah has said; I do make this water healthful. No more will death or any causing of miscarriages result from it. (2 Kings 2:21)

- And the water continues healed down to this day, according to Elisha's word that he spoke. (2 Kings 2:22)
- Deliberately to induce abortion or miscarriage by artificial means, by the use of drugs, or by medical operation, the sole purpose of which is to avoid the birth of an unwanted child, is an act of high crime in the sight of God. Life as a precious gift from God is sacred. Hence God's Law to Moses protected the life of an unborn baby against more than criminal abortion, for if in a fracas between men, a pregnant woman suffered an accident fatal to her or the child, then you must give soul for soul.
- And in case men should struggle with each other and they really hurt a pregnant woman and **her children do come** out but no fatal accident occurs, he is to have damages imposed upon him without fail according to what the owner of the woman may lay upon him, and he must give it through the justices. (Exodus 21:22)
- But if a fatal accident should occur, then you must give soul for soul. (Exodus 21:23)
- Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. (Exodus 21:24)
- Branding for branding, wound for wound, blow for blow. (Exodus 21:25)
- Of course, before applying that penalty, the circumstances and degree of deliberateness were taken into consideration by the judges.
- But if it was unexpectedly without enmity that he has pushed him or has thrown any article toward him without lying in wait. (Numbers 35:22)
- Or any stone by which he could die without seeing him or he should cause it to fall upon him, so that he died, while he was not at enmity with him and was not seeking his injury. (Numbers 35:23)

- The assembly must then judge between the striker and the avenger of blood according to these judgments. (**Numbers 35:24**)
- And you must take no ransom for the soul of a murderer who is deserving to die, for without fail he should be put to death. (**Numbers 35:31**)
- But emphasizing the seriousness of any deliberate attempt to cause injury, **Dr. J. Glenn** comments: **The viable embryo in the uterus is a human individual, and therefore destroying it, is a violation of the sixth commandment.** [**The Bible and Modern Medicine, 1963, p. 176**]
- Properly viewed, the fruitage of the womb is a blessing of Yehowah.
- And I will turn myself to you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will carry out my covenant with you. (**Leviticus 26:9**)
- Look! Sons are an inheritance from Yehowah, the fruitage of the belly is a reward. (**Psalms 127:3**)
- Hence, in promising to prosper Israel, God gave assurance of successful culmination of pregnancy and the bringing forth of children, saying; Neither a woman suffering an **abortion** nor a barren woman will exist in your land.
- Neither a woman suffering an **abortion** nor a barren woman will exist in your land. I shall make the number of your days full. (**Exodus 23:26**)
- As indicated in the prayer of the righteous, on the other hand, evidence of God's disfavor to his enemies would be their having **miscarrying wombs** and their becoming like **miscarriages** that never see the sun.
- Like a snail melting away he walks, like a **miscarriage** of a woman they will certainly not behold the sun. (**Psalms 58:8**)
- Give to them, O Yehowah, what you should give. Give them a **miscarrying womb** and breasts shriveling up. (**Hosea 9:14**)
- Job in his misery contemplated that it would have been better had he been a **hidden miscarriage**. Why from the womb did I not proceed to die? This tormented man cried out.

- **Why from the womb did I not proceed to die? Why did I not come forth from the belly itself and then expire? (Job 3:11)**
- **Why was it that knees confronted me, and why breasts that I should take suck? (Job 3:12)**
- **For by now I should have lain down that I might be undisturbed. I should have slept then. I should be at rest (Job 3:13)**
- **With kings and counselors of the earth, those building desolate places for themselves. (Job 3:14)**
- **Or with princes who have gold, those who fill their houses with silver. (Job 3:15)**
- **Or, like a **hidden miscarriage**, I should not come to be, like children that have seen no light. (Job 3:16)**
- **Solomon, too, reasoned that a **prematurely expelled fetus** is better off than the person who lives a long time but who never comes to enjoy life.**
- **If a man should become a father a hundred times, and he should live many years, so that numerous the days of his years should become, yet his own soul is not satisfied with good things and even the grave has not become his, I must say that one prematurely born is better off than he is. (Ecclesiastes 6:3)**
- **Contagious **abortion**, a disease characterized by premature birth, may occur among animals such as cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. Accidental abortion due to neglect or disease of domestic animals has also been known since the days of the patriarchs Jacob and Job.**
- **These twenty years I have been with you. Your female sheep and your she-goats did not suffer **abortions**, and the rams of your flock I never ate. (Genesis 31:38)**
- **His own bull actually impregnates, and it does not waste semen, his cow brings forth and suffers no **abortion**. (Job 21:10)**