

# “HE KNEW ME FIRST”

## *Jeremiah 1:5*

**Theme:** The importance of each baby is evident as God knows them before conception, during gestation, and once born.

On this “Sanctity of Human Life” Sunday, it is fitting for us to consider the reality of God’s glory through the birth of a baby. As an expectant father, I remember the unanticipated euphoria of seeing my first child as he was born. Being an agent separating him from Pat by cutting the umbilical cord was an amazing responsibility that sobered me. As greatly persuaded as I was that I had just witnessed a miracle, I began to trace the miracle back through those nine months to the conception of the child and the reality of God’s purposes in this pregnancy. I realized that God had been involved throughout the entirety of the process of bringing this little one into the world. Yet, I did not realize exactly the degree to which God had been involved, nor of the fact that it predated my involvement – this little child was known by God before conception, before our marriage, and even before our lives began. God’s intention for this child is traceable to eternity past. Our text demonstrates this truth ...

In this text we see **“The importance of each baby is evident as God knows them before conception, during gestation, and once born.”**

## I. God Knew You

### A. The Intimacy of God with Each Person

1. Jeremiah served God as a prophet during a turbulent period in Judah’s history, spanning several kings, including Josiah, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah, immediately preceding their deportation to Babylon.
2. He is often nicknamed “The Weeping Prophet” as God allowed him to see what was happening to Judah and that Judah would not repent despite how he preached to them.
3. He was rejected, beaten, arrested, and imprisoned in a miserable pit, all of which was the consequence of His faithfulness to the Lord.
4. His willingness to remain steadfast and faithful was due to the intimacy he knew with the Lord in whom Jeremiah had placed his hope.
5. This intimacy is seen – not in Jeremiah’s claims – but in God’s – **“*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, ...*”**
6. God’s declaration **“... *I knew you ...*”** [יָדַעְתִּיךָ] is a “perfect” verb in

Hebrew that refers to an action that was completed or accomplished.

7. This pre-birth knowledge of God of each individual boldly underscores the sanctity and value of human life. – cp. [Ephesians 1:4-6](#).

## B. The Inventiveness of God in Each Person

1. He declares that He knew us *“before I formed you in the womb, ...”*
2. The term *“formed”* [אֶצְוֹרְךָ] – is an imperfect term demonstrating a work of God that was not completed – one God anticipated until the time when it was right for Him to create him.
3. The word means to construct, form, or build – speaking of the deliberateness of God in the unique design and features of each of us – cp. [Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 64:8](#).

## II. God Consecrated You

### A. The Intentionality of God for Each Person

1. This design that results from God knowing us, knowing all about us, knowing what He desires to do with us to bring Himself glory, is tailored specifically to God’s plans for us.
2. God now declares: *“And before you were born I consecrated you;”*
3. Again, the term *“consecrated”* [הִקַּדְתָּנוּ] is a perfect verb – meaning that God’s intention for us is set – and He “sets us apart” for that purpose.
4. The term is synonymous with “sanctify” and describes the process of cleaning, purifying, or preparing for sacred use.
5. It means to prepare for a particular purpose – and ultimately, we know this is to bring Himself glory through us – cp. [Ephesians 2:10](#).

### B. The Inducement by God for Each Person

1. Having purposed to use us for His glory, we are then brought forth at the instigation of God.
2. It is God that instigates our conception, safety in gestation, and then birth – *“... you were born ...”* [יָצָא] an imperfect verb once again demonstrating God’s anticipation of what He had planned.

3. The word can mean to “escape” or to “break out” – an apt description of a person whose life is determined by God and gets to it through birth.

### III. God Appointed You

#### A. The Investment by God in Each Person

1. This purpose for Jeremiah is clear – *“I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*
2. *“appointed”* [נָתַתִּי] – is a perfect verb, indicating the completed action – from before he was born, but revealed as His will after Jeremiah was born.
3. It speaks of all that God did through knowing him and consecrating him, which led to Jeremiah fulfilling God’s purpose for him.
4. God weaves a person – not merely physically – but mentally, emotionally, and even spiritually to bring God the maximum glory.
5. In His sovereignty, God works through situations, circumstances, trials, tragedies, triumphs, education, parents, deprivations, and anything else we encounter to produce a character and passion that He then uses to exalt His name.

#### B. The Influence of God through Each Person

1. God intended to use Jeremiah as *“a prophet to the nations,”* – meaning that His influence would reach beyond Israel and, through Jeremiah, extend to *“the nations.”*
2. We exist to bring God glory through lives uniquely designed and equipped by God to magnify Him – cp. [Isaiah 43:7](#); [Psalm 96:3](#); [Acts 1:8](#).

### So What?

1. **The life of every baby is sacred and must not be exterminated because of undesirability by a mother or society.**
2. **Abortion is a defiance against God, and those who rebel must repent and seek the cleansing by the blood of Christ.**

- 3. God is faithful and just to forgive us of all sin.**
- 4. Each of us must yearn to serve God as He has intended, making Him known among all we know and meet.**