

Is a foetus a person?

If you could tune in, you would be able to hear your foetus cry? Yes, it's true! Dr Stephen Juan says in his book, *The Odd Body*, that audible crying of a foetus has been recorded as early as 21 weeks.

And according to Dr. Vivette Glover and Professor Nicholas Fisk of Queen Charlotte's Hospital in West London, unborn babies feel pain. Dr Glover, head of perinatal psychobiology at Queen Charlotte's, found that foetuses under going treatment in the womb experience huge increases in stress hormones.

And here are three more surprises. They are found in the Bible. First, John the Baptist is acknowledged as a person while still in the womb – being “filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb” Luke 1.15.

Second, God told Jeremiah something even more remarkable: “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you!” Jeremiah 1.5.

Third, God's Word to us in the Gospels – originally written in Greek has exactly the same word (Greek, *brephos*) for a baby in the womb as for the newborn child. For example, “the baby leaped in her womb” Luke 1.41 and “they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.” Luke 2.16.

Since God regards a foetus as a person, dare we regard it otherwise?

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GOOD NEWS IN BRIEF

We say, “*God wouldn't love me if He really knew me.*” *Wrong! He knows I am “sinful from the time my mother conceived me” Psalm 51.5 (NIV)- yet He loves me still!*

Ken Packer