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There IS Righteous Cause

The climatic things happening in our world today, both nationally and globally: there was a time when any one of them would have been the story of the century. Now we have three or four occurring simultaneously. Surely this tells us the coming of the Lord is near; when signs are not only happening, but are overlapping one another. We barely absorb the shock of one report when another is hitting the headlines. This week (August), a shocking, disgusting, undercover video was released of a high ranking Planned Parenthood director, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, a senior director of medical services at Planned Parenthood since 2009. A group representing a bio-

By Sharon Hardy Knotts

medical lab went to lunch with her to express their interest in purchasing baby body parts from abortions. In an undercover video expose', they asked questions to get her to give out information about Planned Parenthood's illegal activity. For instance, the average price for baby body parts ranges from \$30-\$100 per specimen.

While casually sipping wine and eating her salad, she revealed that fetal livers are especially in high demand, and that many of their clients want intact heads, and there are also many requests for lungs and lower extremities. She said that Planned Parenthood affiliates "absolutely want to offer such organs." She admitted Planned Parenthood's abortionists take great care not to appear as though they are profiteering off the baby body parts, and they want to do it in a way that is not perceived as the clinic is selling tissue. (This issue is not just a PR issue it's a federal law! Trafficking human body parts is punishable up to 10 years in prison and a fine of \$500,000.)

The method she described at her particular office is to have "a huddle in the morning" when they determine what fetal body parts are being requested by their customers, what patients they will have that day to perform abortions on, and how they need to go about harvesting the needed body parts. They want to do it in such a way that they do not destroy any organs, maximizing their profits.

"For that reason most providers will do this under ultrasound guidance, so they'll know where exactly to put their forceps. They don't want to crush any organs that they want. If they want a particular organ, say the liver, then they're going to make sure that they have the ultra sound guiding them while they're going in with the forceps, to make sure they don't injure that liver. In that case, they would crush something above and something below, so to keep the body parts that they want intact. Some people... (pauses to take another sip of wine.) ... will actually try to change the presentation so that it's not vertex, or it's not head first. If you're starting, and you have a breech presentation, another words, the baby is not head down vet, but

feet down, the doctor will go in there and try to turn the baby in such a way so that he can have an intact head, so when they take it out they will not crush it or harm it."

Partial-Birth Abortion

If you're not familiar with how it's done, it is guided by ultrasound, and the first thing the doctor does is go in and grab one of the baby's legs with forceps and pulls the baby out all the way, stopping at the head. If the head were to come out, the baby would be born alive, and it would be murder. As long as the head is still in, the baby is *partially born*, and it's a *partial-birth abortion*. Then the doctor reaches in with scissors and punches a hole at the bottom of the skull; he makes the hole wide enough so that he can put a catheter in, and then sucks out the baby's brains. The baby dies, and the doctor delivers a dead baby, so it's legal and not murder

A federal law prohibits performing partial-birth abortions except for certain cases. Dr. Nucatola said that there's a way around the law: "At the national office, we have a litigation and law department which just really doesn't want us to be the middle people for this issue right now. But I will tell you, behind closed doors, these conversations are happening with our affiliates."

In a separate video, the investigators met with the CEO of Planned Parenthood and told her how Dr. Deborah Nucatola had been incredi-

bly helpful in their efforts to procure unborn baby body parts. She replied, "Oh good. Great. She's amazing." This shows the head of Planned Parenthood knows exactly what's going on in all their affiliates around the nation. In addition to overseeing these medical practices, Dr. Nucatola performs abortions herself. The undercover procurers who made the video said: "Planned Parenthood's criminal conspiracy to make money off of aborted baby parts reaches to the very highest levels of their organization. Elected officials must listen to the public outcry for Planned Parenthood to be held accountable to the law, and for our tax dollars to stop underwriting the barbaric abortion business."

They have since released another nine or so videos that are worse than the first. The images of baby body parts are graphically gruesome, and the dialogues are callous and disturbing. Pro-life leaders have called for a congressional investigation (now underway at this time in September). These videos provide the shocking reality about this grisly, inhumane business model of Planned Parenthood's abortion industry. While they claim abortions are a small part of their practice, and they provide lowincome women with much needed healthcare, breast screenings for women in their offices are way down and abortions are up. If they are really the hero for poor women, why would breast screenings be down? Breast cancer is not down

Speak Up for the Voiceless

"Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction" (Proverbs 31:8). This is not referring to people who are intellectually challenged. It is about those who have no voice and cannot speak for themselves. Open vour mouth for those who have no voice, "and in the cause of all who are appointed to destruction." I say to vou, the unwanted child in the womb whose mother has an appointment on the calendar, and it's not her due date, but an appointment with Planned Parenthood or another abortionist is a child that has no voice. It is a cause for which Christians need to stand up and speak out. This is a righteous cause! Some think Christians should not get into politics. This is not political—this is biblicall

David was just a young man, a shepherd on the back side of the mountain watching his father's sheep, while his seven older brothers were serving in the Israeli army. One day his father sent him to where the Army was encamped, to check on his brothers, take them some things, and bring back a report on how they were doing. When young David came to the camp, the entire Army, including the king, were hiding in their tents while this huge giant Goliath was taunting and mocking them. They were all scared and hiding from the giant, but something triggered in that young man's spirit, and he rose up

strong and said, "What's wrong with you people? Why are you hiding in your tents? Why are you not going out there to face this giant?" In righteous indignation, he said, "Is there not a cause? He is not only defying you, the armies of Israel, he is defying the Lord God Almighty, and somebody needs to stand up against him in the name of the Lord!" (1Sam.17:17-29).

Saints, there is a righteous cause! The Bible says we are to take the cause of those who have no voice and are appointed to destruction. I can't think of a worse destruction than to rip a child out of its mother's womb, and now to add insult to injury, to sell the body parts. We've got to speak up, for this is a righteous cause. I tell you, when you take God's righteous cause, you do not have to be afraid; you do not have to back down: you don't have to say. "I don't think we should say anything." David was only a lad, but his big-asa-hulk brothers were hiding in their tents. He said, "You don't get it, they are mocking our God. They are mocking the name of the Lord! I will go out and fight the giant!" He was fearless.

When King Saul tried to put his armor on him, he said, "Get this thing off of me! I've never tried this thing out, but I have tried my God. I know He has delivered me out of the bear's paw, and out of the mouth of the lion, and I am not afraid of this giant!" The Bible says, "The righteous are as bold as a lion" (Pro.28:1). We've got to be bold and stand up, because there is a righteous cause!

Thou Shalt Not Murder!

Those who seek, sanction, provide, and perform abortion are defying the living God who said in the 6th Commandment: "Thou shall not *kill!*" It is better translated. "Thou shall not murder." In Hebrew, there are about six words translated kill, but they do not all mean the same thing. For instance, under the old covenant sacrificial system, they were to offer lambs, cows, goats in sacrifice and in offerings. They had to shed the blood to put upon the altar. Then they were to cook the meat and eat it. They were not to waste the meat, and were to give some to the priests, because priests didn't have an occupation to make money. Obviously, this word kill is not the same as *murder*.

There is also the righteous cause of standing up against your enemies who are trying to kill you. The Bible says, *"There is a time of peace and there is a time of war"* (Ecc.3:8). When a nation has to go out against the army of a nation that is trying to kill their people, that is a righteous cause and not murder. Now there are some people whose consciences are so delicate, they can't even do that, but they don't condemn those who go to war when there is a time and righteous cause to go to war.

But when you take the innocent life of a baby in its mother's womb, it

is murder; it is infanticide. Let's look at similarities in the OT. There was a terrible practice of child sacrifice amongst the heathen nations of Canaan It is one of the reasons God gave Israel the Promised Land, and told them to kill all the inhabitants of these nations. God said not to spare any. Sound terrible? One of the reasons was, they practiced child sacrifice in their deity worship. All those nations did so. The god of the Ammonites was called Molech. and the god of Moabites was Chemosh. The image of Molech was a huge brass statue with the head of a bull. Its arms extended out as if to embrace one. In its belly was a large cavity, in which they would build a fire that heated the brass super-hot. Then they placed the infant onto those super-hot arms. Flames flashed up out of the belly, and this is what is meant in OT Scriptures that forbid Israel to let their "children pass through the fire." As the fire leaping up engulfed the baby, they had drummers beating drums loudly to drown out the screams of the babies. We cringe at the very idea of such a barbaric act of killing children like this. Yet it's just as barbaric what is being done in doctors' and abortionists' offices. It is murdering babies, and God is against it and hates it as much as He hated the practice of those nations and commanded Israel to destroy them.

After God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, the very last plague that was the straw that finally broke Pharaoh's back was the death of all the firstborn males in the land of Egypt. God spared the firstborn of Israel if they obeyed and put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintels of their homes, and stayed inside behind the blood. That's the key for protection: Stay under the blood! If they obeyed, none of their firstborn were killed.

When they came into the land of Israel and God set up the sacrificial system, He said, "Because I spared all your firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, now I require you to give me the firstborn males of all your cattle, lambs, sheep etc. Bring them to My house as an offering to Me." And He also said, "I want your firstborn sons, but with one condition." God did not want them to slav their children. They were to slay the animals and offer them up, but He said, "Do not slay your sons— redeem your sons" (Ex.13:13-15). They were to give an offering in place of, in lieu of, sacrificing their sons, because God was against child sacrifice. He said to sacrifice your animals, but redeem vour children.

"And thou shall not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shall thou profane the name of thy God; I am the Lord" (Lev. 18:21). He is referring to sacrificing children on the statue of Molech. Later, in the time of Israel's most wicked kings, some allowed their children to pass through the fire. As barbaric as that horrible thing was, there came a time when some kings were so evil and backslidden, they were doing it in Israel.

The Death Penalty

Perhaps you're thinking, What about when God told Abraham to take his only son Isaac, whom he loved, to the mountain He would show him, and sacrifice him there? First, Abraham did not know that God would not require child sacrifice since he was 430 years before the Law of Moses. Before the law was given, all the nations practiced this heinous child sacrifice ritual, so he knew it existed in the nations around him. God was simply testing Abraham's heart to see if he would obey Him, and if he loved Him more than his precious son of promise. He would have never allowed Abraham to sacrifice him, because as soon as Abraham lifted his hand to bring the dagger down, God said, "STOP! Now I know you fear God" (Gen.22:10-12). God had no intention of him sacrificing his son, and had Abraham failed the test. Isaac would not have been sacrificed anyway.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones. And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name" (Lev.20:1-3).

God did not want this heinous crime attached to His name. He said that anyone who does this shall be put to death; take him and stone him. God said, "I will set my face against him." But not only did God say He was against those who sacrificed their children, **but He was against those who did nothing to stop it!**

"And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not: Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people" (vv.4-5).

Do you see what God was saying? He said, "Stone those who commit this heinous crime. And if the people of the land stand by and hide their eyes, and look the other way, and do not protest, and do not rise up in righteous indignation, and let them get away with it, I will judge them and their family." I say to Christians of America, if we turn the other way, and let this get by, God is going to judge us, and innocent blood will be on our hands.

We can't just say that it is the law now, and it's all up to the courts and the judges. No, it is up to the people! We are the ones who send our representatives to Washington. We are the ones who elect our Senators and Congressmen, who elect the President, and they are the ones who appoint the federal judges. Federal judges don't run for office; they are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, who represent vou and me. So it behooves us to know what they stand for on important issues such as same-sex marriage and abortion. You are never going to find the perfect candidate who believes everything exactly the way you do, but when it comes to these things God said that He is against, that defile the land, that cause judgment to come upon the nation, then we need to know where our candidates stand on these issues. We need to know, because we're the ones sending them to Washington, and they will be the ones to vote the judges in. We have seen the power and authority our Supreme Court justices have. Nine people dictate to this nation of almost 300 million people what will be, and will not be; often twisting the Constitution and trampling on the Bill of Rights.

Seductive Semantics

Some will say, "I think it's a woman's right to do what she wants with her own body," This is what many politicians say, but in their hearts, they are really against abortion. The truth is they do not like the fact that babies are being ripped out of their mother's wombs, but the women's rights agenda is so powerful, they scare politicians into saying,

"A woman should have the right to choose what she does with her body." God says that she doesn't have the right to kill the body of the innocent child in her womb I have to think if she wants to kill the baby in her womb, except in few cases, it is because she performed an act or made a choice that resulted in pregnancy. It was a sinful choice to start with, because most abortions are not done for happily married women in a happy family with a happy husband. The majority are young unwed mothers, of whom some already have several children and can't afford to take care of them, because they're struggling without the support of the fathers. It is also nearly inconsequential the few who get abortions for the sake of the mother's health. The fact is, partial-birth abortion is more risky for the mother than most any medical condition that would cause her to seek an abortion. If the mother is already in the last trimester, and a health issue arises, why not just do a C-section and deliver the baby? It is not as risky for the mother's health, but abortionists will never admit this.

The mantra is, "A woman has the right to do what she wants with her body." But God says that she does not have the right to take the life of a child. Make no mistake: She may have a legal right to choose, but her choice is between having a living baby or a dead baby—but either way she is going to have a baby! And if it's an aborted baby, in God's sight, it is murder!

If the Church of Jesus Christ does not stand up and speak out, and insist that a congressional investigaleads to the defunding of tion Planned Parenthood, who receives almost a half **b**illion dollars from the federal government every year, God will judge this nation! That is a lot of our tax dollars paying for these abominable, atrocious, damnable, heinous, gruesome mutilations. I do believe some politicians have blood on their own hands, because they do not really believe in abortion, but they have flipped their positions for votes. There was a time when they said they were against abortion, and said they were "pro-life." Then they flipped and called themselves "prochoice", but this is a euphemism for pro-death. Do you think they're going to call it the *pro-death* agenda? No, they are going to call it prochoice, because that sounds positive. Pro-choice sounds understanding of women's rights. No politician is going to tell a woman, "You do not have the right to " (fill in the blank). No politician wants to get on the wrong side of women. You will never see a placard when they're having their marches and protests, saying Pro-abortion! If there is nothing wrong with it, why not call it what it is? Don't call it "Prochoice"- that has to do with the woman. Call it "Pro-abortion"that has to do with the *baby* that is going to be killed. Why not tell the whole truth and call it "Pro-death"!

The Hippocratic Oath

The Hippocratic Oath was written by Hippocrates, a Greek physician, who was called the father of medicine. For centuries it has been taken by new doctors getting ready to practice medicine. It states the obligations and proper conduct doctors should perform in their practices, and is one of the oldest binding documents in history. One day while waiting to be seen for an eve exam. I got tired of sitting in one place for a long time, so I got up and walked around. Trying not to look too conspicuous, I began reading the documents hanging on the walls. I came upon one titled The Hypocritic Oath-I mean Hippocratic- that must have been the Holy Spirit! knew one of its main principles is "First, Do No Harm." In other words, don't make the patient worse. Then I came across this line: "I will not give a woman a pessary" (another word for medicine). "I will not give a woman a medicine to cause an abortion. In purity and according to divine law, I will carry out my life and art."

I thought, *Oh my goodness!* I didn't realize it said this in the oath, and I was so struck by it, as soon as I got home I looked it up on the internet. Guess what I found? In 1964, the academic dean of the medical school of Tufts University re-worded it into a modern version, and the line about abortion was deleted. (This is why it truly is the "*Hypocritic*" *Oath!*) I

was also surprised to learn that most medical schools that still take the oath (some do not) have removed this line as well.

Let me share another interesting fact which is from the Bible The ancient Hebrew language of the OT had an ALEPHBET of 22 letters that were first written as "word pictures" that later evolved into letters. If you know the word pictures for the spelling of a word, they give an additional underlying meaning to the word. Most Hebrew words have a threeletter root all of which are consonants, as the vowels were not written out in the spelling of the word. Knowing the word pictures for these three letters adds greater meaning to the word With this in mind let's look at the Hebrew word for *womb*:

It is **RECHEM**, and its three root letters are **RESH**—CHET—MEM Their word pictures are: RESH-a picture of a person's head and means a person. CHET-a picture of a fence and means a fence or to be surrounded and protected by something. MEM—a picture of water and means water. When you put these three word pictures together, the meaning of RECHEM—WOMB is a person surrounded by and protected by water. Isn't this beautiful? This is exactly what a baby is like in its mother's womb. Here's the kicker: When God wanted a word that means mercy or compassion. He used the same word **RECHEM!** It has a double meaning: a mother's womb and mercy and compassion. In God's mind, there is

nothing more definitive of protection and love than a baby in its mother's womb. The ultimate illustration of being loved and protected is a baby in utero. That was until abortion came into the picture!

God Said, "LIVE!"

"Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saving, Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations. And say. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem: Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother a Hittite. And as for thy nativity (thy birth), in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut (umbilical cord), neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee: thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the loathing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood. I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live" (Ezekiel 16:1-6).

Friends, while this is an analogy of Israel's backslidden condition, it is also is a picture of an unwanted, aborted baby. When a baby is born, the father is given the privilege to cut the umbilical cord. The doctor says to him, "Cut between here and there," and he does it gently and lovingly. It's a very special rite the father does with great love and pride, but God said of this baby: "Your navel was not cut, and neither were you washed in water to supple thee."

When the baby comes out, it has a protective coating on it that needs to be wiped off, and blood on the baby also must be wiped off. You would not rub the baby harshly, but gently, so the baby who has just gone through the trauma of being born, isn't further traumatized. You lovingly wipe it a little at a time, so the baby feels safe.

God said, "You were not salted." In Old Testament times, and still in some Middle Eastern countries, they wipe the baby down with salt, because salt kills germs. These babies weren't born in sterile hospitals like we have, but were born at home and even in tents. They would take salt and lovingly wipe the baby down. But God said, "No one salted you, and no one suppled you."

The word *supple* refers to something flexible and soft, so they would carefully wipe the baby's little fingers and little toes. What a picture of tenderness— what a dichotomy from taking forceps and reaching up in the mother's womb and grabbing the leg and pulling the baby out! The baby that is loved and wanted is gently suppled. Every little limb is gently wiped so as not hurt one of the joints, or pull a shoulder or elbow out of joint. God said of the unwanted baby, "Nobody suppled you, or washed you, or salted you, or swaddled vou."

I saw recently swaddling is making a comeback in the United States. Swaddling is when they take the new baby, who is accustomed to floating around inside its mama with no gravity, and is brought out of that safe, warm, dark, comfortable place into bright lights and loud noises, and wrap it tightly in a blanket. The only fear a newborn has is the fear of falling. All other fears are learned. It is why sometimes when you pass a baby around, he will scream bloody murder, or when a certain person holds him he may cry. It doesn't mean he doesn't like the person, but he's not comfortable with the way he is being held and doesn't feel secure. Some people are scared to hold little babies, and the baby can sense this by the way they hold him. My husband Benny used to walk around carrving our daughter Sarah like a football, and she was okay because of his strong grip. Even our little dog, who only weighs 8 pounds, Benny can pick up and carry him around, and he is fine, but when I pick him up, he starts trembling and getting nervous, because I don't have the strength and the bulk that Benny has in his arms. He loves me, but he wants to get down, and I can pet him when he is down. When I hold him, he gets antsy, because he is afraid I am going to drop him.

What they do when they swaddle babies is wrap them tightly in a thin blanket. They wrap it this way and then the other way, and the babies like being all snuggled up. You might think the baby would be screaming like he's in a straitjacket, but the baby loves it. He is quiet and doesn't cry, because he feels safe and goes to sleep. But God said to the dying baby: "But nobody swaddled you; nobody wrapped you up in a nice warm bunting to make you feel safe and loved. And nobody had pity on thee."

Who is going to have pity on the 58 million babies who have been aborted since 1973 in the United States of America? I wonder how many doctors and lawyers, musicians and artists, inventors and scholars, preachers, teachers, and evangelists, were aborted? How many geniuses who could have done something great for the world, discovered something beneficial for humanity, were among those 58 million babies?

God said, "No one had pity on you; no one had compassion on you, but you were cast out into the open field to the loathing of your person." Loathing is a strong word and means to regard with disgust. "You were thrown away like rubbish." We have heard the stories of finding babies in trash compactors and dumpsters behind stores where they can be eaten by wild animals. We have heard stories of young girls who didn't know what to do and kept their pregnancies secret, and when they gave birth, they flushed their babies down the toilet. This is not necessary! If a girl is just a teenager, or young college student, or without means, and she doesn't know what to do with the

baby, and is in no shape or condition or mindset to raise it, there are people who will gladly take the baby and love it and raise it in a good home. She doesn't have to flush it down the toilet!

I mean, if the federal government can give out money so she can have an abortion, they ought to give out money so she can go the full nine months, provide for her prenatal care, hospital bills, and when she has the baby, set it up for adoption. If they can pay for abortion, they can pay for a young girl who has no one to help her, to put her in a safe place with other young girls, and pay for all her expenses until the baby is born. There is no excuse for her to have to be forced to have an abortion. This is America, the richest nation in the history of the world, but this not only an issue of money-it is an issue of character-and a nation that kills its own innocent young has lost its soul. People care more about saving whales and owls and puppies than saving baby humans.

They tell these young girls that it's not a baby; it's a blob of tissue, just a wad of flesh with no meaning, no value, no legal rights. But things are changing in some places. In some cities, there are pro-life clinics set up right near abortion clinics, or a big mobile bus that has sonogram equipment, is parked near an abortion clinic. They get young women who are about to get an abortion to come in and allow them to conduct a sonogram. When a woman sees her baby on that sonogram, that's it; she can't go through with the abortion. When she sees what lies she has been told, that it is only a wad of flesh, a blob of tissue, and sees 10 little toes and 10 little fingers, and a nose that looks like hers, they can't lie to her anymore. Especially the new 3-D sonograms where you can really tell if the baby looks like mom or dad: once those girls see that, they are in awe. Most the time, they really didn't have any idea, because they were sold the lies. Once they see that living baby inside of them, sometimes they are hiccupping or clapping their little hands, they can't go through with their abortion

God told the dying baby: "They threw you out in the field in your own blood, but I passed by, and when I passed by, I said, Live! Live!" God is not the God of pro-choice—He is the God of pro-life! He said, "Live."

He is saying to us, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, "It's time for you to open your mouth for those who have no voice. It's time for you to stand up for a righteous cause, for the child in its mother's womb whose days are numbered, and there is a mark on the calendar for that child, and it's not the due date of its birth but its appointment date with the abortion clinic. It's time for you to stand up on their behalf!"

In closing, I want to share a poem the Lord gave me in 2008, when our nation was at a critical moral and spiritual crossroads. In 2008, I preached this message and I said that the day is coming soon when several of these moral issues are going to be decided by the Supreme Court. They have been. Partial-birth abortion got through, and now this year, we have seen the sickening videos of Planned Parenthood's heinous practice of selling baby body parts for profit, even custom-killing babies so as to procure specific organs without damaging them, and delivering some alive to obtain their brains and tissues in optimal condition.

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