

Title: Crimes in the Bible

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Abortion is one of the crimes which has been described in the Bible as a heinous crime which is punishable. *“If men strive and hurt a woman with child so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according to as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine” Exodus verse 21:22*

In Exodus 21:22, an injury peculiar to women carrying a child, resulting in a miscarriage is reflected. The man who has caused the injury to the woman is punishable according to the decision of the woman's husband and the then legislative body which governs and passes judgment for the act (Koukl, 2010)

Elements of the crime

Actus reus in the event is the miscarriage of the child or fetus which is an alive human being and the act is considered as a murder. Mens rea in the act relates to the intent of the perpetrator to kill the unborn child or it was to harm the mother, lastly, outcome of the concurrence of both the elements of the crime are viable for strict punishment.

Comparison to the modern equivalent

Contrasting to the Biblical perception of the crime, forced miscarriage or abortion is considered as a woman's right to choose abortion. In terms of a forced abortion, the act is protected by “FACE”, which is a movement in the United States focused on protecting the rights of women who have been forced to abort their child. Additionally, forced abortion is liable for a 10-year sentence. Forced miscarriage is not liable for the punishment of a first or second-degree murder (History.com, 1973).

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Sin in the Bible are considered based on two broad approaches, an act can be considered a sin when something has stepped beyond the limit and is considered a transgression. Crime, on the other hand, is a forbidden conduct which has a predefined punishment and results in harm or damage to a fellow's property.

"All crimes are a sin, but not all sins are crimes", this saying is fairly true, since abortion is considered as a murder in the Bible, but in modern times it is a crime since mothers themselves are desirous of it. Abortion is a sin in the Bible and a crime in the modern world.

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