

## Searching His Word

Where does the Bible say that? Part 2

By Russell Earl

As we continue to answer the question: “Where does the Bible say that?” We come to the next topic of study: Original Sin. The definition of Original Sin is a person who is born in sin. We want to see if the Bible does or does not teach such a doctrine.

The most common verse used in an attempt to prove when a person is born, they are sinful is Psalms 51:5 which says “*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me*” (NKJV). The problem is with the phrase or word used in various translations. For example the KJV uses the word “shapen.” Other versions say that a person is “sinful from the day I was born.”

The problem, of course, is determining what the original text actually says. To do this, we need to look at the Hebrew language in which the Old Testament was written. In the original, the text reads “*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*” To read the original we see that the NKJV in this case is translated the same way. Since the original text uses “brought forth” and not “shapen” we can see the meaning of the verse. To be “shapen” means you were created in a certain state. Thus if we took the interpretations of some, they have man being brought into the world sinful. However, the original text does not say such. We must remember that the scribes of the Old Testament were very careful to write everything exactly as it was recorded. If a mistake was made they would burn that copy! Here, we see that the text actually says “brought forth.” This means the person was born into a world which is sinful. The person was not sinful but the world the person is now living in is sinful.

To clarify even further: In order for a person to be sinful, what must they do? They have to transgress God’s law to become a lawbreaker or sinful. With that being said, what sin has a new born child committed?

Still some teach that we “inherit” the sin of Adam and Eve. This is yet another attempt to get around what the Bible teaches in order to support the doctrines of men. Does the Bible say a person “inherits” the sin of Adam or any other person? Look at what the Bible does say “*The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself*” Ezekiel 18:20 (NKJV).

We could continue on and look at the various verses used to try and teach the false doctrine of Original Sin. The Bible, however clearly tells us that such a doctrine is false. Adam and Eve brought the first sin into the world but they did not pass down their sin. Sin itself cannot be passed down but a sinful way of life seen through the examples of those who have gone before us can be, and sadly often, is passed down through example.

If a person is born sinful, then the child is sinful even while in the mother’s womb. What about this Bible verse: “*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations*” (Jer 1:5, NKJV). This child was known before he left the womb — known by God — but was he

sinful? If original sin is true, then he had to be sinful. Anyone can see the holes in this false doctrine. The child in this verse was obviously not sinful or born sinful.

Let's go one step further. A child who dies before leaving the hospital — if born sinful — spends eternity where? Can you see the obvious problems with this teaching? The Bible teaches that a person who is too young to be able to understand what it means to be a follower of Christ is not lost. Nehemiah 8:2-3 *“So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law”* (NKJV). Who are those who sometimes cannot understand? A child is not born saved and a child is not born lost. A child is innocent until they gain the ability to understand what it means to be a child of God.