

At eight weeks, 1.6 inches in length, and all its body parts in place

to the neuroscientists. From its inception this new life in the womb has been very busy for eight months making these billions of neurons and creating billions of connections between them, making possible the moving, breathing, sucking, swallowing, tasting, urinating, hearing, seeing, learning, and remembering. How can any intelligent person say that this creature is not living?

Many scientists and millions of others logically believe that life starts in the womb at conception. In his book The Mind, Dr. Restak says: "The true beginning and most critical event in our lives is clearly the moment of our conception. The Chinese recognize this by calculating age from that moment; a baby is considered one year old at birth."

Today, many like to believe that babies are not to be considered a life, a person, until birth, but God's Word disagrees. If the

baby is intentionally aborted, God's rule is: 'A transmitted diseases, even AIDS, can be passed life for a life.' This is reinforced by Exodus 21: on. Mothers who during pregnancy use tobac-22, 23: "In case men should struggle with each co, marijuana, alcohol, morphine, cocaine, other and they really hurt a pregnant woman heroin, and other drugs may give birth to baand her children do come out but no fatal ac- bies addicted to drugs, with minds retarded, cident occurs, he is to have damages imposed brains damaged, bodies malformed, subject

## Many scientists believe that life starts at conception

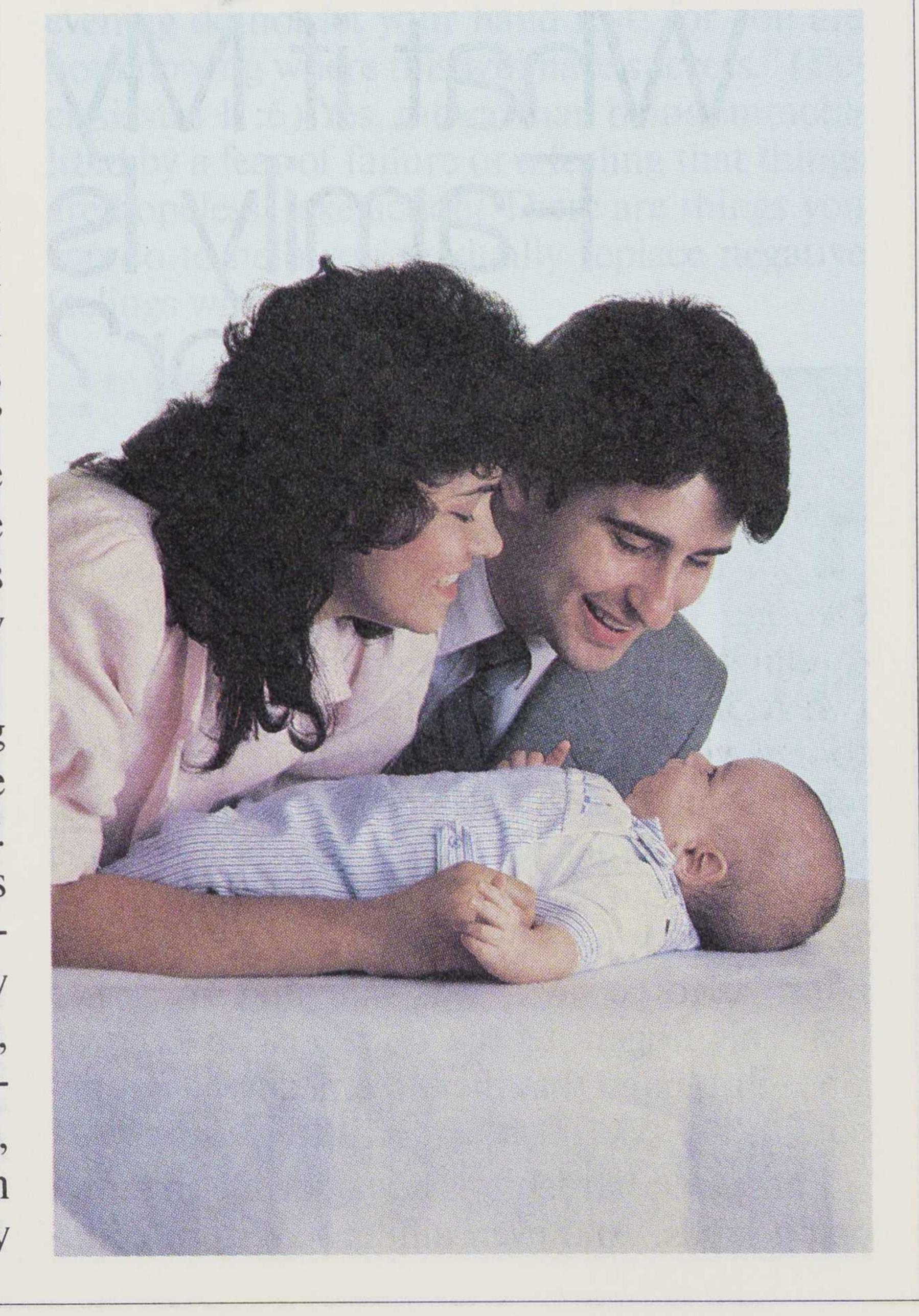
upon him without fail according to what the owner of the woman may lay upon him; and he must give it through the justices. But if a fatal accident should occur, then you must give soul for soul [or, "life for life," King James Ver-

While the baby is still in the womb, Jehovah considers it to be a living person. That it is such is clear from all its activity in utero. Science now knows that all its bodily parts are present and functioning by the end of the second month, that it is feeling, learning, and remembering. Certainly the newborn's mind is not a 'blank slate' as Aristotle said, nor does the baby know 'little more than a vegetable' as the university professor said. It has all the neurons that it will ever have, and they are ready to register all the new sights and sounds and feelings that now surround it. It is ready to go! Or is it?

The mother can do much for the well-being of the baby in her womb, or she can do damage to it. Her thoughts can affect it, for good or ill. It is not that the fetus will think the mother's thoughts; but the thoughts she dwells on generate emotions, and the fetus is affected by the emotional states those thoughts generate, whether they be of security, serenity, and tranquillity or of anxiety, fear, and rage. Far worse, infectious diseases may be transmitted from mother to fetus through the placenta. Sexually

to strokes, seizures, and other dire consequences.

The baby in the womb is not as sealed off from the outside world as many once thought. While in the womb, it may be lovingly nurtured or cruelly victimized. What treatment awaits it once it leaves the womb? Its learning began in the womb, but what will its learning experiences be when it comes into this world? Hopefully, happily married loving parents will make those experiences good



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