

BABY BOYS, BIBLES, AND BLOOD

Presented by

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As Blake pointed out in his sermon, “Modern Medicine from an Ancient Book,” the Bible contains extremely impressive scientific foreknowledge, especially when it comes to medical issues. The men who penned God’s Word included in their writings such accurate medical knowledge that scientists today are amazed that such information appears in a book as old as the Bible. Christians, of course, are never surprised at the Bible’s accuracy—because we know that the information it contains came directly from God. In 1 Corinthians 2:12 the apostle Paul addressed this fact when he wrote, “We received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know **the things that have been freely given to us by God.**” The Bible writers never claimed that what they wrote came from their own wisdom or personal experience. Instead, they said that the things they wrote came from God Himself. Today, we can see evidence throughout the Bible that proves the truthfulness of their claims. The Bible’s medical knowledge is one such proof. Consider, for example, the following fascinating information.

In Genesis 17:12, God commanded Abraham to circumcise newborn baby boys on the **eighth day** of their lives. But why did God specify **day eight**? During the time of Abraham, and for centuries thereafter, scientists had no idea. Today, however, we know why God chose day eight.

Thanks to modern medical research, scientists now realize that blood clotting in humans is dependent upon three separate factors: (a) platelets; (b) vitamin K; and (c) prothrombin. Platelets are tiny cells within the bloodstream that are present from the moment of a child’s birth. The platelets link with vitamin K and prothrombin to cause the blood to clot. However, while platelets **are** present in adequate quantities in a newborn child, vitamin K and prothrombin are **not**. Vitamin K begins to form during the first few days of a baby’s life as a result of the action of bacteria in the child’s intestines. Then, once the vitamin K has reached a certain level, it is responsible for the production of prothrombin within the liver. If the quantity of vitamin K is not adequate, adequate quantities of prothrombin cannot form, and excessive bleeding can occur, which can be fatal for a child.

It is of interest to note, however, that it is **only on the fifth to seventh days of a newborn’s life** that vitamin K is present in the quantities needed to form prothrombin. Obviously, then, if vitamin K is not produced in sufficient amounts until days five through seven, it would be wise to postpone any surgery—like a circumcision—until sometime after that. But this brings us back to our original question. Why did God specify **day eight** as the time when Abraham was to perform circumcisions?

Here’s why. It is on **the eighth day** of a newborn’s life that the amount of prothrombin actually rises **above 100 percent of normal!** In fact, day eight is the only day in a male’s life in which this will be the case under routine conditions. If a baby needs to undergo a surgical procedure, day eight is the perfect day

to perform such surgery. S.I. McMillen, the famous medical doctor who authored the book, *None of These Diseases*, had something to say about this. Here is what he wrote:

“As we congratulate medical science for this recent finding, we can almost hear the leaves of the Bible rustling. They would like to remind us that four thousand years ago, when God **initiated** circumcision with Abraham, He said ‘And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised....’ Abraham did not pick the eighth day after many centuries of trial-and-error experiments. Neither he nor any of his company from the ancient city of Ur in the Chaldees had ever been circumcised. It was a day picked by the Creator of vitamin K” (1963, p. 21, emp. in orig.).

The medical information used by Abraham, and written down by Moses, was scientifically accurate during their day, and remains so to this very day. No other group of people who lived at the same time as the Israelites possessed such scientific expertise, which, by the way, was years ahead of its time. How, then, did Abraham and Moses know the best time for circumcision—unless, of course, that particular fact was revealed to them by God and recorded in His Word through inspiration? As the apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16, “**All scripture is inspired by God.**” Yes, it certainly is! No other book in the world contains the type or amount of advanced scientific knowledge that the Bible contains.

We should be **very** grateful to God for giving us medical information that can be used to help prevent or cure our physical ailments. But we should be even **more** grateful to Him for giving us information in the Bible that tells us what we need to do to cure us of our spiritual sickness of sin. In my next sermon, I plan to say more about that. For now, however, I hope that each one of us will take seriously Paul’s advice to the young evangelist Timothy, to whom he wrote, “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). **That** is **excellent** advice—for our **spiritual** health!