

# The JEWISH Spin on Current Events

## STEM-CELL RESEARCH

*What are the ethical concerns and benefits?*

### ∞ OVERVIEW ∞

1. DOES TORAH ENCOURAGE MEDICAL RESEARCH?
2. WHAT IS THE TORAH'S POSITION ON 'ABORTION'?
3. IS ABORTION WITHIN 40 DAYS OF CONCEPTION ANY DIFFERENT?
4. ARE PRE-EMBRYOS INCLUDED IN THE PROHIBITION OF ABORTION?
5. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE DERIVE FROM THE NEW 'BREAKTHROUGH'?

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November 28, 2007

*(Next class will be held on December 12)*



A Project of the

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## ס SOURCES ס

### 1. Does Torah encourage medical research?

ס 1A ס

GENESIS 1:28

G-d blessed them and G-d said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it..."

ס 1B ס

GENESIS 9:6

...for in the image of G-d He made man.

ס 1C ס

EXODUS 21:19

...and he shall provide for healing

### 2. What is the Torah's position on 'Abortion'?

ס 2A ס

EXODUS 20:13

Thou shall not murder.

ס 2B ס

EXODUS 21:22-23

If men will fight and they strike a pregnant woman and a miscarriage results, but there is no fatal injury [to the woman], he [the guilty one] is to be punished with a [monetary] penalty when the husband demands compensation. He shall pay as determined by the judges.

ס 2C ס

GENESIS 9:6

אִם יִלְחָמוּ • § •?? § •?? § • אִישׁ־אֶחָד

Basic translation: Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed...

Talmudic translation: Whoever shed the blood of man in man, shall his blood be shed.

ס 2D ס

RESPONSA MAHARIT 97 & 99 RESPONSA SERIDEI AISH, VOL. 3, NO. 127

Based on the Torah's proscription of inflicting damage to one's self or others (*chavala*). As a result, some claim that the prohibition of abortion arises from the prohibition of the

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woman wounding herself, while others feel that the derivation is from the prohibition of wounding the fetus.

Ⓢ 2E Ⓢ

RESPONSA CHAVOT YAIR, NO. 31.

Based on the Torah's prohibition against "wasting seed" (*hashchatat zera*).

### 3. Is Abortion within 40 days of conception any different?

Ⓢ 3A Ⓢ

TALMUD, YEVAMOS 69B

...But it has been taught in a Baraisa: If a Kohen's daughter marries a Yisrael and he dies, she immerses herself and may eat Terumah that very evening?

Rav Chisda said: [The Baraisa means that] she immerses herself and may eat until forty days pass. For if she has not become pregnant, then she is not pregnant. And if she has become pregnant, then, until forty days pass, [the fetus] is merely water.

### 4. Are pre-embryos Included in the prohibition of Abortion?

Ⓢ 4A Ⓢ

LEVITICUS 19:16

Do not stand idly by as your neighbor's blood is being shed.

Ⓢ 4B Ⓢ

DEUTERONOMY 22:1-2

... and you should surely restore it to him.

### 5. What lessons can we derived from the new 'breakthrough'?