

## “What Happens to Babies Who Die?” # 1

Selected Text

6-17-12 Sun AM

What Happens to babies who die? Instant heaven, yet born with a sin nature after the first Adam. Whether Believer’s children or unbeliever’s children, whether in America or Iraq, instant heaven.

Last week “Jesus loves the little children.” We should bring our children to Jesus, we should not hinder our children from coming to Jesus, and God has a special provision for children who die. **Matt. 19:14**, “for of such is the kingdom of heaven”

Two quotes from last week. **McArthur says**, “Heaven is populated by two kinds of people, those who die as children and those who trust as little children.” **John Calvin says**, “The passage broadens to give kingdom citizenship to both children and those who come as children.”

**TT-** Today I want to share some implicit references in Scripture and three theological questions why babies go to heaven when they die.

**1. Three Implicit Scriptures.** Last week 2 Sam. 12:21

**A. Psalm 139:17-** David gives precious thoughts and truths about God toward babies.

1. God knew everything about him before he could talk [vv. 1-4].
2. God is in control of his life [vv. 5-6].
3. God will never lose sight or knowledge of him no matter the circumstances [vv. 7-10].
4. God will never be limited in that knowledge [vv. 11-12].
5. God is his personal creator [vv. 13-14].
6. God has determined his destiny [vv. 15-16].

God is in every conception of life and that mattered to David. A caring God who knows all this should care and know if that life perishes in infancy. We can trust him to do what is right.

**B. Job 3:16-17-**

Job is in despair [vv. 1-3]. Why did he not die in his mother's womb? He would have been better off stillborn or a miscarriage!

"Enter into rest" the dying of an infant brings one to rest not hell. He is not saying all go to rest, but children do.

### **C. Eccl. 6:3-6-**

Solomon laments. It would have been better to be still born than 1,000 years twice. Being stillborn he would go to "rest."

## **2. Four Theological Questions.**

### 1. Who is an infant or child?

If we say babies go to heaven if they die, then we must define who or what we are talking about?

We often say "the age of accountability" but it is not a "age" but a condition or understanding.

We define a baby or toddler as those who have not reached a mature understanding of law and grace, sin and salvation.

It could be an infant, toddler, or mentally impaired.

### 2. Are all children conceived as sinners?

Every person is born in sin after the first Adam. We were morally corrupt.

Some believe man is born clean and later corrupted by sin. So babies who die go to heaven because they are sinless. This is not the reason though.

All children are sinners at birth, if not, they would not have died. The fact that they die is evident of inherited sin. "In Adam all die."

They die before they can make a responsible choice of sin, yet still having a sin nature not manifested yet. They have the principle of sin, the guilt of sin, and the consequences of sin.

**Psalms 51:5**, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

**Psalms 58:3**, "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."

**Jeremiah 17:9**, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

**Romans 5:12**, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

**Ephesians 2:3**, “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

All babies have a deadly virus called the s.i.n. virus.

3. What are the consequences of this?

1. All mankind are depraved sinners born to depraved parents who are condemned to hell unless they are saved by grace thru faith in Jesus.

Some say babies can't repent and believe so they go to hell. The response is “no.” They go by grace! Why do you want grace for you and law for babies? You were condemned to hell but God showed you grace!

2. Some say God is only gracious to baptized babies. So we must baptize them before they die.

So man came up with infant baptism. Trouble is, it is not taught in Scripture and would be salvation by works not grace.

4. How are babies saved if they can't repent and believe?

They are saved by the atoning work of Christ that has been applied to them. They are sinners but not guilty of the sin of unbelief.

Nowhere in Scripture do we see the damnation of infants. Eternal damnation is linked to unbelief and deeds or sins.

**Isaiah 7:16**, “For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.”

**Deuteronomy 1:39**, “Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.

**Jonah 4:11**, “And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand [120,000] persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?” Total population about 600,000.

What happens to babies who die? Instant heaven