



Tough Questions From Christian Teens

Will Babies Who Die On Earth Still Be Babies In Heaven?

By

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It's been seven years since we invited Christian teens to send us their tough questions. We hope the answers we've shared since then have been helpful. If you are a Christian teen or the parent or teacher of Christian teens, we invite you to **send questions to us** and we'll be glad to share our thoughts with you.

Here's our next question.

Will babies who die on earth still be babies in Heaven?

Great question!

First, let's look at whether babies who die on earth go to Heaven. Then we can answer your question.

Babies – Body and Soul

One of the most conclusive insights we discover about babies going to Heaven is found in 2 Samuel 12. King David's child with Bathsheba became seriously ill soon after he was born. King David pleaded with God for his child. David refused to eat while his son was sick. The baby boy died on the "seventh day."

When David learned that his son had died, he rose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, changed his clothes, and went into the "house of the Lord and worshiped." David returned to his house and asked for food to eat. His servants were confused by the king's behavior.

What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food.

Here's how King David responded to his servants –

While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. 2 Samuel 12:22-23

Notice David's words at the end of verse 23: "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." David knew that he would see his son again in Heaven. That's what he meant when he said, "I shall go to him." Keep in mind that King David knew about the sin nature of humans and that they needed to repent of their sins and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. However, David also knew that a newborn baby couldn't understand their need for repentance and forgiveness. Yet, David (a king and prophet) knew that his baby son would go to Heaven. David knew that he would see his child after his (David's) earthly death.

Jesus said something that might also be helpful for us to know in this context. The Lord's disciples came to Him and asked, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus responded by calling a little child to join Him and stand in the "midst" of the disciples. Jesus said that people had to be "converted and become as little children." Then Jesus gave His disciples a fascinating insight into children and Heaven –

Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.
Matthew 18:10-11

The idea that children have "their angels" in Heaven is insightful. We learn in Revelation 5 that the number of angels "around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders," is described as "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." That's just the angels around the throne! There might be more than that in other parts of Heaven.

Ten thousand times ten thousand is one-hundred million! In addition to one-hundred million, there are “thousands of thousands.” That could easily push the number of angels around the throne into the billions, and that’s just “around the throne.” My point is that there are plenty of angels for the children that Jesus said “always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.”

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4 that when Jesus Christ returns to gather His people to Himself, “the dead in Christ will rise first.” In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul wrote that “corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” He went on to write that death would be “swallowed up in victory.”

So, what happens to humans who died as babies (before or after birth)? Will they still be babies in Heaven? If so, will they grow up in Heaven to become adults? If not, will they appear as children, teens, or adults when Jesus returns for His people?

Heavenly Nurseries?

Millions of babies die every year across the world. Tens of millions die before birth because of abortion, illness, or other reasons. Millions more die after birth. Your question concerns their physical appearance (will they still be babies in Heaven?). Will Heaven have “nurseries” for all these babies? If so, who will take care of them? The hundreds of millions (or billions) of angels Jesus described Luke 18?

The Bible doesn't answer that question directly, but here is something to consider. God created humans to love and worship Him, and reign with Him. Revelation 5 tells us that we have been “redeemed” by the blood of Christ, “Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” How would babies reign as ‘kings and priests to our God?’ How would babies know what it meant to be ‘redeemed’ by the blood of Christ?

I think God will 'age' babies so that they can understand how Jesus redeemed them by His blood, and so they can reign on earth with Christ as 'kings and priests to our God.' I think the same will be true with elderly people who died of debilitating diseases or old age. I also think that mentally 'disabled' people (unable to understand the Gospel of Christ) who die on earth will be made whole in Christ.

The Victory

In 1 Corinthians 15 the Apostle Paul said that all of God's people we experience an eternal 'victory' –

... in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone in Heaven will experience ‘victory’ through Christ. The Apostle John saw a vision of ‘a new heaven and a new earth’ where God would ‘dwell’ with His people. God will “wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21)

Babies who die before or after birth will experience victory in Heaven. People who die with disabilities, disease, or from old age, will experience victory in Heaven. God will wipe every tear from their eyes. They will no longer experience the pain or sorrow of death. They, we, are victors in Christ!

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who

shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:31-39

Thank you for your question! I hope this answer helps.

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