

3. Meaningful quotes of this subject:

I hope you are both well reconciled to the death of your child. I cannot be sorry for the death of infants. How many storms do thy escape! Nor can I doubt, in my private judgment that they are included in the election of grace.¹

- John Newton, Minister, Writer of our hymn, *Amazing Grace*

Now let every mother and father here present know assuredly that it is well with the child, if God hath taken it away from you in its infant days. ... Many of you are parents who have children in heaven. It is not a desirable thing that you should go there, too? ... Mother, unconverted mother, from the battlements of heaven your child beckons you to Paradise. Father, ungodly, impenitent father, the little eyes that once looked joyously on you, look down upon you now, and the lips which had scarcely learned to call you father, ere they were sealed by the silence of death, may be heard as with a still small voice, saying to you this morning, ‘Father, must we be forever divided by the great gulf which no man can pass over?’ Doth not nature itself put a sort of longing in your soul that you may be bound in the bundle of life with your own children?”²

- Charles H. Spurgeon, Pastor, Metropolitan Tabernacle in London

If a deceased infant were sent to hell on no other account than that of original sin, there would be a good reason to the divine mind for the judgment, but the child’s mind would be a perfect blank as to the reason of its suffering. Under such circumstances, it would know suffering, but it would have no understanding of the reason for its suffering. It could not tell its neighbor—it could not tell itself—why it was so awfully smitten; and consequently the whole meaning and significance of its sufferings, being to it a conscious enigma, the very essence of penalty would be absent, and justice would be disappointed of its vindication³ ... all infants dying in infancy are and must be [saved] ... the death of an infant therefore, is the irrefutable proof of its salvation.⁴

- Dr. R. A. Webb, Presbyterian Theologian and Itinerant Lecturer

When we look into the grave of one of these little ones, we do not place our hope and trust in the false promises of an unbiblical theology, in the instability of sentimentalism, in the cold analysis of human logic, nor in the cowardly refuge of ambiguity. We place our faith in Christ, and trust Him to be faithful to His Word. We claim the promises of Scriptures and the assurances of the grace of our Lord. We know that heaven will be filled with those who never grew to maturity on earth, but in heaven will greet us completed in Christ. Let us resolve by grace to meet them there.⁵

- Drs. Al Mohler and Daniel Akin, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

4. Why do they* get to go to heaven?

* Embryos, infants, babies, children, special needs, miscarriages, stillborn, (tragic deaths), etc.

A. Babies are “innocent” as they are incapable of good or evil acts.

Deuteronomy 1:39, NLT - ³⁹ *I will give the land to your little ones—your innocent children. You were afraid they would be captured, but they will be the ones who occupy it.*

Deuteronomy 1:39, NIV - ³⁹ *And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad—they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it.*

Jeremiah 19:4, NIV - ⁴ *For they have forsaken me and made this a place of foreign gods; they have burned sacrifices in it to gods that neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah ever knew, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent.*

Scripture states that babies—by their very nature—do not know “good” from “evil”. They are not moral agents. They are innocent—they do not sin; they cannot sin!

B. God’s judgment is administered only on the basis of sins committed in the flesh—babies are exempt on biblical grounds (cf. #1 above).

2 Corinthians 5:10, NIV - ¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

Paul provide a list of people who will not enter heaven:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, NIV - ⁹ *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

Notice that “Children” are not listed!

Revelation 20:12-13, NLT - ¹² *I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds.*

Here's the **TOUGH QUESTION:**

Do Babies Really Go To Heaven When They Die?

Here's the **STRAIGHT ANSWER:**

1. The Short Answer:

YES!

2. Introduction to the issue:

- A. There are some common, but unsatisfactory reasons for hope: Sentimentality, Universality, Pelagianism, Post-mortem-soteriological-hypothesis, and/or Infant Baptism.
- B. A biblical understanding of the English words for “embryo,” “infant,” “baby,” and/or “child.”
 - In Hebrew, the one word (עוֹלָל) pronounced “Ah-LEL” translates to all the words, “child,” “embryo,” “infant,” and “baby”. The translation is always based on context.
 - In Greek, the one word (βρέφος) pronounced “BREE-phos” translates to all the words, “embryo” (in a womb), “infant” (outside the womb), “baby” (in your arms) and “Child” (at your side), even “special needs children.” The translation is always based on context.

C. The Bible speaks specifically of babies and heaven.

2 Samuel 12:19-23, NLT - ¹⁹ When David saw them whispering, he realized what had happened. “Is the child dead?” he asked. “Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.” ²⁰ Then David got up from the ground, washed himself, put on lotions, and changed his clothes. He went to the Tabernacle and worshiped the Lord. After that, he returned to the palace and was served food and ate. ²¹ His advisers were amazed. “We don’t understand you,” they told him. “While the child was still living, you wept and refused to eat. But now that the child is dead, you have stopped your mourning and are eating again.” ²² David replied, “I fasted and wept while the child was alive, for I said, ‘Perhaps the Lord will be gracious to me and let the child live.’ ²³ But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me.”

Matthew 18:14, HCSB - ¹⁴ In the same way, it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

Matthew 19:13-15, NLT - ¹³ One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. ¹⁴ But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs [the Greek uses a word that means “belongs ... as a possession”] to those who are like these children.” ¹⁵ And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

John 10:27-29, NASB95 - ²⁸ ... I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

D. One significant verse for every parent with a child in heaven to consider (hopefully, to encourage you):

Isaiah 57:1–2, NIV - ¹ The righteous [Heb. צַדִּיק (sod-deek) lit., innocent, young] perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. ² Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.

END NOTES:

(Recommended resources are in bold face with yellow highlights)

¹ John Newton, “Letter IX”, *The Works of John Newton*, (London, 1820), p. 182.

² Charles H. Spurgeon, “*Infant Salvation*”, a sermon preached September 29, 1861 in London, England. (Cf. Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, circa 1861. p. 505.)

³ R. A. Webb, *The Theology of Infant Salvation*, (Richmond, VA: Presbyterian Committee of Publications, 1907), p. 42.

⁴ Ibid, p. 188-189.

⁵ Drs. Albert Mohler, Jr. and Daniel L. Akin, ***“The Salvation of the ‘Little Ones’” Do Infants Who die Go to Heaven?***, SBC Life, May 1998, p. 12.

Another Good Resource: ***Safe in the Arms of Jesus—Truth from Heaven about the Death of a Child***, by John McArthur.