

QUESTION #29 – Do all babies who die go to heaven?

Because of advances in medical science, fewer babies die today than they did in past centuries. However, it is still true that millions upon millions of babies have died and the question arises where did they go when they died? Where did the souls of the babies go when they died? There have been various opinions on this subject:

(Opinion #1) - If the baby was baptized, it went to heaven but if it was not baptized, it didn't.

This is the view of the Roman Catholic Church. Actually the Roman Catholic view is that when a baby dies who was not baptized, it goes to some infant place of Limbo on the outskirts of hell. This view is obviously false for two main reasons: 1) No place in the Bible does it say a baptized baby goes to heaven; 2) No place in the Bible does it say an unbaptized baby goes to some place of limbo in the outskirts of hell.

(Opinion #2) - All babies are born sinlessly innocent and have not chosen to sin so therefore if they die in infancy they automatically go to heaven.

Actually there are deranged people who support abortion who actually use the argument that all babies go to heaven to suggest that they are helping God by sending the baby on into heaven by abortive execution.

Now the problem with this view is that the Bible clearly indicates babies are not born sinlessly innocent. They are born with a sin nature. Psalm 51:5 makes that point very clear. Furthermore, infants are just as guilty in Adam as an adult (Rom. 5:12, 18, 19; I Cor. 15:22). Also the Apostle Paul confirmed this when he said, “we were by nature children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3). **The truth is if any baby is to be saved, that salvation will not be granted on the basis of a babies' innocence; it must be granted on the basis of the application of Christ's merits to them.**

Now some denominations draw a distinction between Adamic original sin and one's personal sin. However, in Romans 5:13-14 Paul refutes that very argument. He says that even before sin was not personally imputed before the Law was given, people still died because they were declared guilty in Adam. So although this may sound sentimentally good, it is Biblically wrong.

(Opinion #3) - Babies who die, who are part of the elect, are saved and do go to heaven because in election God does the saving where, when and how it pleases Him.

In all reality, this position may be Biblically defended. I don't know of any actual solid argument that could refute this point.

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(Opinion #4) - All babies who die are all part of the elect and therefore no baby who dies is lost.

The problem with this position is that we cannot find any passage that would say this. In fact, Psalm 58:3 would seem to suggest otherwise.

(Opinion #5) - All babies who die having been born into a Christian home do go to heaven.
This opinion is based on II Samuel 12:22-23; I Corinthians 7:14.

Now in forming our beliefs, we want to always stick within the facts of Scripture. There are six Biblical facts we may observe and defend:

Biblical Fact #1 - Babies are fearfully and wonderfully formed and made by God.
Ps. 139:1, 13-16

This is a fact that is true concerning every baby.

Biblical Fact #2 - God is concerned about the babies of believers and unbelievers. Jonah 4:11;
Matt. 19:14

Biblical Fact #3 - God's mercy is good to all, which includes babies. Psalm 145:9

Biblical Fact #4 - Scripture does not specifically say all babies go to heaven

We must be very honest with this point. We cannot turn to a specific verse or passage in the Bible where it says that all babies who die go to heaven.

Biblical Fact #5 - The Bible clearly teaches that salvation is a gift of God given to one who is part of the predestined elect so if a baby is part of the elect, he does go to heaven. Romans 8:29-39

Since we believe that the entire matter of salvation is by God's elective grace/gift, we can find nowhere in Scripture where it says God cannot elect babies and impute to them His grace gift of election and salvation. In this life a grandparent can give a gift of money and put it in the bank for a baby who knows nothing about it. The gift is given and it is real. God can do the same with salvation. In fact, in Ephesians 1:4 we specifically learn that God's elective choices were made before the foundation of the world.

Biblical Fact #6 - Jesus said that He would grant eternal life to "all" that His Father gives to Him and would not lose one of them (John 6:37-40) so if a baby is part of the "all," he is in heaven.