

# Do Babies that Die go to Heaven?

II Samuel 12:15 And **Nathan departed** unto his house. And the **Lord struck the child** that **Uriah's wife** bare unto David, and it was **very sick**. 16 **David therefore besought God for the child;** and **David fasted,** and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. 17 And the elders of his house arose, *and went* to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. 18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that **the child died**. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? 19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, **Is the child dead?** And they said, **He is dead**. 20 Then **David arose** from the earth, and

washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. 21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing *is* this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, *while it was* alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. 22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, **Who can tell *whether* God will be gracious to me, that the child may live?** 23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.**

- Do babies and small children that die go to heaven?
- Do mentally impaired or handicapped go to heaven when they die?

- Will they be raptured out in the rapture?

## 1. The facts of the story

- a. David and Bathsheba are having a child from their sinful relationship
- b. God is going to take the child because of the sin
- c. David thought that God might forgive him and let the child live so he prayed and fasted [II Samuel 12:16](#)

**David therefore besought God for the child;** and **David fasted,** and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

- d. David would not quit praying as long as there was a chance the child might live [II Samuel 12:17](#) *And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.*
- e. When the child died David got up and ate [II Samuel 12:19](#) *But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, **Is the child***

**dead?** And they said, **He is dead.** 20 Then

**David arose** from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

- f. David had prayed hoping God would answer till the child died II Samuel 12:22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, **Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live?**
- g. David accepted the child's death and gave a faith statement II Samuel 12:23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.**
- i. David said he would go to his son when he died

- ii. David had a special relationship with God
- iii. He seemed comforted as soon as the child died

2. First question to answer is why do people go to hell?

- a. They go to hell because they do not believe in the Lord

Jesus Christ [John 3:18](#) He that **believeth** on him is

**not condemned:** but he that **believeth**

**not is condemned**

**already, because he hath not**

**believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- i. If you believe you are not condemned
- ii. If you do not believe you are condemned already
- iii. The reason you are condemned is because you have not believed

- b. The Bible says that all are without excuse because they can see that there is a God from creation [Romans 1:20](#)

For the **invisible things of him** from the

creation of the world are **clearly seen**, being  
**understood by the things that are**  
**made**, even **his eternal power**  
**and Godhead;** so that they are  
**without excuse:**

- i. People can see that there is a God
- ii. They can recognize and call on God even when they do not fully understand like in the story of Cornelius
- c. Their conscience tells them that they need God

Romans 2:15 Which shew the work of the **law**  
**written in their hearts**, their

**conscience** also bearing witness, and their  
thoughts the mean while **accusing or else**  
**excusing** one another

- d. People who do not believe are not obeying the gospel

II Thessalonians 1:8 In **flaming fire taking**

**vengeance** on them **that know not**  
**God,** and that **obey not the**  
**gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be  
**punished with everlasting**  
**destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and  
from the glory of his power

- i. There are severe penalties for not knowing God and we must be ready to understand and accept that
- ii. There are those that when they hear refuse to believe
- iii. There will be eternal punishment, destruction

3. God wants everyone to be saved

- a. He is waiting now for all to come to repentance

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is **not slack** concerning his  
promise, as some men count slackness; but is

**longsuffering** to us-ward, **not willing that**

**any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

b. His will is for all to be saved **I Timothy 2:3** For this is **good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;** **4** Who will have **all men to be saved,** and to **come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

c. He did not want any of the little ones to perish  
**Matthew 18:14** Even so it is **not the will of your Father** which is in heaven, that **one of these little ones should perish.**

d. God doesn't enjoy the death of even the wicked  
**Ezekiel 33:11** Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked;** but that **the wicked turn from his way and**



**live:** turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why  
will ye die, O house of Israel?

4. We know that God did not hold children responsible for the  
sins of their parents

a. The children of Israel under the age of 20 he calls little  
ones that have no knowledge of what was going on

[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.

i. We will see who little ones are

ii. They had no knowledge between good and evil

iii. They were unable to make a decision

b. God had chosen an age where he called the people  
responsible for their actions and decisions [Numbers 14:29](#)  
Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that  
were numbered of you, according to your whole number,

**from twenty years old and upward,**

which have murmured against me, **31** But your **little**

**ones,** which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

**35** I the Lord have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

- i. The 20 and above were responsible
- ii. The little ones under 20 were not responsible and not punished
- c. Obviously there was a time when children didn't understand what they were doing **Isaiah 7:16** For

**before** the **child shall know to**

**refuse the evil, and choose the good,**

The land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

- i. There is a time before a child understands

- ii. They are not able to refuse the evil and choose the good
- d. God was concerned for the little children in Ninevah  
**Jonah 4:11** And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than **sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?**
  - i. There were 120,000 couldn't understand the difference between their right and left hand
  - ii. They were not able to make a decision
- e. Some conclusions we might draw from these verses
  - i. God didn't hold people unable to understand responsible for decisions made by and as adults
  - ii. They were exempt from the judgment because of their lack of knowledge
  - iii. In these passages those under 20 were consider children, or little ones
  - iv. The under 20s were not consider responsible for the rebellion of their parents nor considered part of the evil congregation

- v. We can't be sure that this has anything to do with salvation but it might indicate that God recognized some sort of age of accountability
- vi. There seems to have been a time when the children didn't know how to choose evil or good
- vii. God showed mercy on the children who did not yet understand

5. God did show special love towards children

- a. Jesus wanted the children to be brought to Him

**Luke 18:15** And they **brought unto him also infants,** that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. **16** But Jesus called them unto him, and said, **Suffer little children to come unto me,** and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. **17** Verily I say unto you, **Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.**

- b. Children have not yet decided to openly rebel against God
  - c. When the disciples tried to keep children from Him He wanted them to come
  - d. We all come with a child like faith
  - e. Doubtful that God will stand a pre-born baby, a mentally challenged person, or small child up and judge them for what they have or have not done
6. At the Great White Throne people will be judged according to their works [Revelation 20:11](#) And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12](#) And I saw the dead, small and great, **stand before God**; and the **books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the **dead were judged** out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works.** [13](#) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered

up the dead which were in them: and **they were judged every man according to their works.** 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

- a. In the passage they are being judged for their works
- b. These people had been doing things
- c. They were not in the book of life either

7. No one goes to heaven because they are innocent.

- a. There is nothing that says that they are saved
- b. There is nothing that indicates that they are not sinners
- c. All that I can assume and hope for is that He is having mercy on them due to their lack of ability to discern and understand
- d. As a child this was explained to me that somehow God kept the babies safe until they were able to know right from wrong. I believe these verses would indicate that

e. Babies die just like everyone else as a result of sin and death entering into the world **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:**

- I do not believe that a person can be saved without believing
- I believe that the child would be safe somehow by the grace of God and I believe that the verses indicate that God did just that with those that were unable to understand
- I have no idea about the rapture and whether babies go in the rapture. I do not see any verses that I can apply there
- Everyone dies because sin entered the world through Adam and his sin
- God wants all to be saved
- He will always do right and I can trust that

<http://www.gty.org/resources/questions/QA101/do-babies-and-others-incapable-of-professing-faith-in-christ-automatically-go-to-heaven>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/do-all-infants-go-to-heaven>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-do-you-believe-that-infants-who-die-go-to-heaven>

<http://www.metropolitantabernacle.org/Christian-Article/Infant-Salvation-Charles-Spurgeon/Sword-and-Trowel-Magazine>

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-242/the-salvation-of-babies-who-die-part-1>

<http://www.puritanboard.com/showthread.php/34759-Al-Mohler-All-Babies-dying-in-infancy-go-to-heaven>

<https://www.backtothebible.org/is-my-child-in-heaven>



