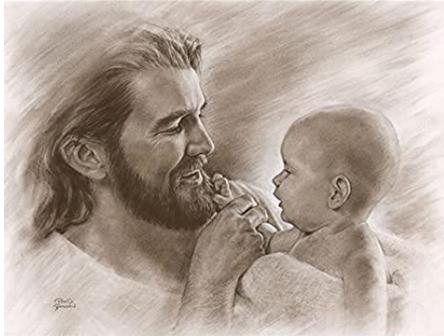


Heaven

Part I

Safe in the Arms of Jesus

Is my baby in Heaven?



*Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o'ershaded, sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels, borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory, over the jasper sea.
Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o'ershaded, sweetly my soul shall rest*

Fanny Crosby 1868

Introduction

I begin with the assumption that preborn babies are just as “eligible” for heaven as anyone else. Why? Because they are just as *human* as anyone else. According to Genesis 1:27, all human beings are created “in the Image of God.” Every individual ever conceived bears that Image. It doesn’t matter who his parents are or what they happen to believe. This means that, in some mysterious way, each one of us is a “copy” or “graphic image” of the Creator. Every human being is a *formal, visible, and understandable representation* of who God is and what He is really like. We’ve been designed to enjoy interpersonal communion with Him and with each other for all eternity. How do we know this? Because community, fellowship, and relationship are basic to the very nature of the Trinity. That fellowship and community are what heaven is all about.

When does a person become a living soul?

The Bible clearly indicates that God knows and regards us as unique *human persons* even while we are still in the womb (and even *prior* to that time):

How is this expressed in

Psalms 139:13-16

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Summary Statement

A person becomes a living soul as the result of the gift of life being given by God at conception, or even possibly before

Are Babies Innocent of Sin?

In the hunt for answers at the loss of a child, many people say that babies simply cannot understand sin and therefore are innocent. But that's not what the Bible says. Understanding sin is not required for being under the penalty of sin. How is this illustrated in the following two scriptures?

Psalm 51.5

Psalm 58.3

The Bible addresses a baby's need, however, through the blood of Christ. Jesus' blood was provided for the salvation of mankind--men, women and children. Until we are of a cognitive age where we are capable of accepting or rejecting the promise of God's salvation, the benefit of His death is automatically available to us. Even though babies are not innocent, they have not rejected God's salvation. How does Jeremiah refer to babies and children?

Jeremiah 2.34

Jeremiah 19.4

What are we taught about children and responsibility before God in Isaiah 7:15-16?

The Character of God

What are we taught about the character of God in the following verses?

Psalm 86.15

Psalm 145.9

Jesus and Children

What do the following verses teach us about Jesus attitude towards children?

Matthew 19.13-14

Luke 18 15-16

The Death of David & Bathsheba's Child

There's nothing quite so agonizing as the death of a child. As someone said, "The death of a child is like a period (full stop) placed before the end of a sentence." King David was not spared that agony but his testimony has stood large for couples who have lost children for centuries. What did David teach us in II Samuel 12.14-23?.

Children and the Doctrine of Election

When a child dies and goes to heaven, that is evidence that God loves that child and has elected them to salvation. How can that statement be defended from Paul's statement in Ephesians 1.4?

Summary Statement

A child who dies, whether by miscarriage or after physical birth goes straight to the safe arms of Jesus in Heaven