

“Do Babies go to Heaven and what about those whom have never heard?”

Do all babies go to heaven when they die?

There is no Bible verse to say yes. However, we do take one to suggest yes that babies go to heaven.

2 Samuel 12:22-23, “And he (David) said, “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.”

In those words of King David, we find he had hope of a reunion. Some may suggest that he was just referring to him being buried next to his son one day when he died. That however, doesn’t give any hope or joy in knowing those facts. The reason for David to immediately stop fasting and return to working, gives doubt to that question.

Also there is a word used to describe children in the Old Testament, that word is “*innocent*”. Children for example who were sacrificed to the god Molech were called innocent.

Psalm 106:37-38, “They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed **innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood.”**

That word is from the Hebrew which means innocent, from the Concise Oxford English Dictionary:

innocent

■ adjective

- 1 not guilty of a crime or offence.
 - ▶ not responsible or directly involved: *an innocent bystander*.
- 2 free from moral wrong; not corrupted.
- 3 not intended to cause offence; harmless.
- 4 (**innocent of**) without experience or knowledge of: *a man innocent of war’s cruelties*.
 - ▶ without; lacking.

■ noun an innocent person.¹

It does not mean that they are not fallen in nature, nor does it mean that they are not sinful. But it could refer to God in His grace and mercy treats them as “innocent”.

¹ Soanes, Catherine, and Angus Stevenson, eds. *Concise Oxford English dictionary* 2004 : n. pag. Print.

Is there an age of accountability?

No there is no age of accountability. I believe there is no specific age because children mature at different ages, girls mature faster than boys, the age is different in culture to culture, from age to age etc.

The Lord does not specify a specific moment in time, when you are held accountable to accepting Jesus. Matter of fact in,

Romans 1:19-20, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”

Being clearly seen and fully understood, is different for each person because some understand much earlier than others, and some (mentally handicapped) will never be able to fully understand. When do people begin to understand? Only God knows when that is.

The Jews, in their culture, had identified an age of transition from childhood to manhood was 13 years old. The bar mitzvah, was a ceremony to commemorate that transition. That is why it was amazing for the much learned temple teachers, that this boy Jesus who was 12, knew so much with His understanding.

Luke 2:46-47, “Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.”

According to the Barna Group, only 6% of adult Christians made their decision to follow God over the age of 13. That means 94% made decisions as children 13 or under.

It is important to encourage children to make a commitment to Christ regardless of their age, whether they are 3 or 4 or 5 or however old, we should encourage them to do that. At what point that becomes a true saving type of faith and true trust in Christ without being in vain (**1 Corinthians 15:2**) only God knows for certain.

What about those who have never heard the name of Jesus?

First of all, this question is not valid, because God has revealed Himself to everyone.

Romans 1:19-21, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify

Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Romans 2:15, NLT “They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.”

Nature and a moral compass which is our conscience make us without excuse.

Even Old Testament passages suggest the same thing,

Ecclesiastes 3:11, NLT “Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.”

Walvoord and **Zuck** explain, “Solomon observed that God has put eternity in the hearts of men. People have a longing or desire to know the extratemporal significance of themselves and their deeds or activities.”

Isaiah 40:18-26, “To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver. He who is too impoverished for such an offering Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman to prepare an idol that will not totter. Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. Scarcely have they been planted, scarcely have they been sown, scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely blows on them, and they wither, And the storm carries them away like stubble. “To whom then will you liken Me That I should be his equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power Not one of them is missing.”

God has revealed himself to the world through nature and conscience, thus making someone who hasn’t heard about Jesus not valid.

In the Old Testament the name of Jesus might not have been understood clearly, so as **Paul** explains; Acts 17:30, “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent...”

Peter stated this in, Acts 4:10-12, “let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the **name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, **by Him** this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ 12 **Nor is there**

salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

We forget that we are sinners by nature and deserve punishment, and that everyone should be separated from God. God is a just God and must punish disobedience, but we forget that God didn't have to send a savior, but out of love and mercy chose to send Himself to reconcile us back to Him.

This need of God's forgiveness, goes all the way back to Cain and Abel. Abel slaughtered a lamb, and **Hebrews 11:4** says, that he offered that by faith and that was evident that he was righteous. Even before the days of Moses, Job who's book dates hundreds of years before the book of Genesis, wrote about in **Job 1:5**, that he offered sacrifices to God for his kids just in case one of them had sinned.

There has always been some kind of revealed truth in mankind that he needs a savior.

God is love, **1 John 4:8**, “**Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”**

God is merciful, **Psalm 86:15**, “**But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”**

God is a righteous judge also, **Psalm 7:11**, “**God is an honest judge. He is angry with the wicked every day.”**

God's judgment is **without mercy**,

Nonetheless God is still good, **Luke 18:19**, “**No one is good but One, that is, God.”**

But I firmly believe that if someone desires to know that God based on the truth that has been revealed to them, **God will send someone to them.**

In the case of **Acts 8:26-40**, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch.

In the case of **Acts 10**, Peter and Cornelius

Even in the Old Testament case of Rahab and many others like her, **Joshua 2.**

That is why it is so vitally important we send and support missionaries.

