

Do Babies go to Heaven?

The question is oft-answered with a single proof text: **2 Samuel 12**. Our faith is not in a simple proof-text, but in the character of God. **Job 34:10-12** God will not do wrong, and will not pervert justice.

1. Trust in God's Justice

Justice is God's strict adherence to moral law.

Genesis 18:25 "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

John 6:39 God will not lose even one that belongs to Him.

Problem: How do you deal with original sin?

Original sin: "The sinful tendencies, desires, and dispositions in our hearts with which we are all born." John Piper, *Desiring God*.

Psalm 51:5 All babies are conceived in sin.

A. God judges man according to His knowledge

Romans 1:18-20 God judges those who perceive God's truth and suppress that truth in their unrighteousness.

Romans 2:14-16 God judges those who violate their conscience (law on their hearts).

Isaiah 7:15-16 Infants cannot refuse evil and choose good.

Deuteronomy 1:39 God allowed children to enter the promised land because they had no knowledge of good and evil.

Hebrews 4:8-9 The promised land was a picture of our eternal rest. God gave children a pass for the first rest. It would not be unreasonable to believe that God would do it for the perfect rest.

B. God judges man according to his works

Romans 2:6 "He will render to each one according to his works."

Cross references: **Rev 20:12-13; Matt 16:27; Jer. 17:10**

"There is no place in Scripture in which a person suffers the judgment of damnation on the basis of anything other than sinful deeds, including the sinful deed of disbelief—a conscious, willful, intentional choice to disbelieve. Furthermore, God does not charge people with sins until sins are committed." **John MacArthur**

2. Trust in God's Compassion

You cannot trust in a God you do not know.

Ps. 86:15 God is "full of compassion and gracious, long-suffering." **Psalm 103:8**, "The Lord is merciful and gracious."

Isaiah 49:15 God will not forget us

God has a special place for the suffering:

Psalm 34:18 He is near to the brokenhearted

Psalm 68:5 He is a father to the fatherless and a husband to widows

Matt 19:13-15 Jesus loved children, in particular.

3. Trust in God's Mercy and Grace

How is a baby saved? The same as us: through mercy and grace.

Romans 9:15-16 "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy."

Romans 3:23-24 We "are justified by his grace as a gift."

"Infants who die are given a special dispensation of the grace of God; it is not by their innocence but by God's grace that they are received into heaven." **RC Sproul**

Whether you trust God with your baby has everything to do with this: Can God be trusted? *Illus: A babysitter.*

Romans 15:4 Read how God could be trusted in the past

Trusting God with our infant is an act of faith, in something unseen.

4. A Response of Faith

Job 1:20 After losing all his kids, Job both grieved and worshipped.

A. Grieve

Job 1:20 Job tore his clothes and shaved his head.

Some may seek to avoid grief by looking at the unborn as unalive.

Book recommendation: *Safe in the Arms of God: Truth from Heaven About the Death of a Child.* John MacArthur

Music Recommendation: Scripture Lullabies.

B. Worship God

Job 1:20 Job still worshipped God.

Heb 13:15 Worship is a sacrifice we give, not a feeling we feel.

Job 1:21-22 Job would not sin nor charge God with wrong.

When you're hurting, beware of blaspheming God.

Our theology is not based on what God does, but Who He is.

Beware **situational idolatry:**

Basing your views of God on what you desire from Him.

David's response to the death of a baby:

2 Sam. 12:20 After mourning, David resumed life and worshipped.

People will not understand a Christian's peace about their lost child.

2 Sam 12:22-23 "I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

David was so assured because of his faith in Who God is.