

June 5, 2016

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Selected Scriptures

“Tough Questions: New Heaven & New Earth – Part Two”

- I. Unbiblical Views of Heaven
- II. Biblical View of Heaven
 - A. The Current Heaven
 - B. The New Heaven & Earth
 - 1. When? (Rev. 20)
 - 2. Where? On a new Earth! (Rev. 21:1-3)
 - 3. What will it be like? (Ps. 16:11; cp. Gen. 1-2 with Rev. 21-22;
 - 4. What will we be like?
 - 5. What will we do?

Theologian A. A. Hodge once wrote about our lives in heaven: “Heaven, as the eternal home of the divine Man and of all the redeemed members of the human race, must necessarily be thoroughly human in its structure, conditions, and activities. Its joys and its occupations must all be rational, moral, emotional, voluntary, and active. There must be the exercise of all faculties, the gratification of all tastes, the development of all talent capacities, the realization of all ideals. The reason, the intellectual curiosity, the imagination, the aesthetic instincts, the holy affections, the social affinities, the inexhaustible resources of strength and power native to the human soul, must all find in heaven exercise and satisfaction.” (A. A. Hodge, *Evangelical Theology*; Carlisle, Pa.: Banner of Truth, 1976, 400)

- 6. Who will / won't be there?

7. Will there be Marriage in Heaven? (Mark 12:18–27; Matt 22:23–33; Luke 20:27–38)

8. Will babies that die go to heaven?

Different Views:

- 1. Hell.
- 2. Some Heaven and some Hell.
 - a. Children of elect parents go to heaven and others go to hell.
 - b. Baptized children go to heaven but unbaptized children go to hell.
- 3. Heaven
 - a. Universalism = everyone goes to heaven so children do too.
 - b. Sovereign grace is extended to children.

Helpful book by **John MacArthur**: **“Safe in the Arms of God: Truth from Heaven About the Death of a Child.”**

- **They go to Heaven! Job 3:11-17; Eccl. 6:3-5; 2 Sam. 12:23 (cf. 2 Sam. 18)**
- 1. All children are conceived as sinners (Ps. 51:5; Prov. 20:9; Jer. 17:9; Mt. 15:18; Rom. 3; 5:12; Eph. 2:3; Gen. 8:21; Is. 48:8).
- 2. The salvation of every person is a matter of God's grace, not man's works (Eph. 2:8-9).
- 3. We are saved by the sacrificial work of Jesus on the cross – the supreme manifestation of God's grace.
- 4. We are saved by grace but condemned by works (Rev. 20:11-15; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:6; Rev. 21:8; 22:15).
 - But God sees children as “innocent” (Dt. 1:39; Is. 7:16; Jer. 19:4-7; Ezek. 16:15-21; Dt. 24:16; Ezek. 18:20; 1 Kings 14:9-13)

R. A. Webb. "If a dead infant were sent to hell on no other account than that of original sin, there would be a good reason to the divine mind for the judgment because sin is a reality, but the child's mind would be a perfect blank as to the reason of its suffering. Under such circumstances, it would know suffering, but it would have no understanding of the reason for its suffering. It could not tell itself why it was so awfully smitten and, consequently, the whole meaning and significance of its sufferings, being to it a conscious enigma, the very essence of the penalty would be absent, and justice would be disappointed, cheated of its validation."

If infants are saved when they die, by what means are they saved?

"The destiny of infants who die is determined irrespective of their choice by an unconditional decree of God suspended for its execution on no act of their own and their salvation is wrought by an unconditional application of the grace of Christ to their souls through the immediate and irresistible operation of the Holy Spirit prior to and apart from any action of their own proper wills. If death and infancy does depend on God's providence, it is assuredly God in his providence who selects this vast multitude to be made participants of his unconditional salvation. This is but to say that they are unconditionally predestined to salvation from the foundation of the world." (B. B. Warfield)

John MacArthur: "Salvation then is by grace completely apart from works. Damnation is by works completely apart from grace. Infants have no sinful works to fill the books and condemn them. So I say this, if a baby dies, that baby is elect. Instant heaven."

Age of Accountability? (Jer. 2:34; 19:4; Jonah 4:11)

- The issue is not truly one of "age" but rather "condition."

Who qualifies as an infant or a child?

Summary by John MacArthur: "...all children who die before they reach the condition of accountability, by which they convincingly understand their sin and corruption and embrace the gospel by faith, are graciously saved eternally by God through the work of Jesus Christ, being elect by sovereign choice, innocent of willful sin, rebellion, and unbelief, by which works they would be justly condemned to eternal punishment. So, when an infant dies, he or she is elect to eternal salvation and eternal glory."

Some additional questions:

What age will they be in heaven? (Rev. 7:9-13)

What should I do if this happens to me?

- Grieve (1 Thess. 4:13-17)
- Trust that God is sovereign (Is. 26:3-4)
- Choose joy (James 1:2-4)
- Fix your mind on things above (Col. 3:1-4)
- Receive God's comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-4)
- Look for opportunities to comfort others in similar situations (2 Cor. 1:4)

Discussion & Application:

1. What specific applications did you make in your life from last week's sermon on Heaven? How did meditating upon Heaven impact your thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions this week?
2. Does the Bible teach that we will be married in heaven? Why is it difficult for us to think of NOT being married to our current spouse in heaven? How will relationships in heaven be even better?
3. How many babies die in the womb or shortly after birth each year? Is that a shocking number? How important is it that we be able to give a strong biblical answer to them as to where their child is for eternity?
4. What reactions might people have to losing a child? How might it impact their personal life and/or their marriage?
5. Having heard the sermon, what is your conclusion about what happens to babies that die? Why do you hold that view? What primary Scriptures do you use to support your conclusion?
6. Why would a good God allow babies to die? What possible good could come out of this?
7. Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven? If God were to ask you why He should let you into His heaven, what would you say?