

When a child dies do they go to heaven?

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This subject deals with the doctrine of “age of accountability.” While these exact words are not in the Bible, children are treated differently from adults throughout the scriptures.

The examination of scripture gives the principle of distinction of age exist in the heart of God at the point of life when a person become enlighten or aware how they live there life on this earth. This distinction in age carries the idea that exists in the heart of God a time when a person becomes culpable for his/her actions and accountable for their sins.

We see the first occurrence when the people of Israel rebelled against God and refused to enter the Promised. (Numbers 14:1-39) God spoke through Moses that all adults aged 20 years and over would die in the wilderness and never enter the Promised Land. This age distinction gives the idea that exists in the heart of God a time when every person becomes accountable for his/her sin.

In Isaiah he describes childhood as a time when they decide good or evil.

Isaiah 7:16 NASU

6 "For before the boy will know enough to refuse evil and choose good....."

Matthew 19:14 NIV

14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Both passages points to the idea of an age of accountability, but, there is nothing in the Bible that gives a clear specific direction when accountability begins. Therefore, we have no direct passages that promise a child who dies will be instantly granted entrance into heaven. But, Jesus used an analogy of a child like attitude that gives us a picture of what it takes to enter into kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:2-4 NIV

2 He called a little child and had him stand among them.

3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

However your confidence and satisfaction isn't going to come just from these scriptures by the proof and text of Scripture but from the God's character. The essence of God's character makes up God's attitude and personality. Therefore, we have the doctrine of his character and with this we can build precept upon precept through scriptural analysis. To understand this God is one in essence. God's essence is His basic nature in concentration of His character and this is the intrinsic properties that makeup the characteristics of God's attitude and character. Therefore, we can come to conclusions:

1. God's is absolute justice and fair in judgement.

2 Chron.19:7 NIV

7 Now let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.

Therefore we can conclude unless a person has had the understanding and opportunity God wouldn't send a child to hell unless they had the capability to understand and accept him. Each person is treated individually by God's judgement.

Romans 3:21-28 NIV

21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.

28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

God is free to condemn those that reject Christ and saves those that aren't incapable of receiving him. This is the character of God.

2. God is absolute Love that is eternal and unchangeable. The biggest reason we have hope in life when things are horrible, unfair and leave us with questions. When death visits a small child we have complete confidence of knowing that God cares.

Jeremiah 31:3 NIV

3 The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love;

God has declared his love to the human race but a person must accept Christ as Lord and Savior. God care more than we do in the passing of a child because it is his creation and he is unhindered in His ability to express His love to that child.

3. The love of God will not permit separation.

Romans 8:35 NIV

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Please understand that God loves that small child as much as you do. His love demands His justice unhindered by prejudices and human elements.

Romans 8:38-39 NIV

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. God is veracity - God is absolute truth and honest.

When Abraham was told that God was about to rain down judgment upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (where his nephew Lot was living), Abraham questioned God's mercy, forbearance and judgement.

Finally, in Genesis 18:25 Abraham posed this question to the Lord: "*Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" Abraham had confidence in the answer to that question, but can we today possess that same confidence? God is the Judge of all the earth. Can we trust Him to make the absolute best decision in such matters?

I believe we can, and that should encourage us with hope. To understand this further we read in Titus 3:4 KJV

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

The character of God is made up into one Greek word "*kindness*" and it means moral excellence (in character or demeanor): This is the essences of God's Character or characteristics.

Also the scriptures tell us, in Deut.32:4 NIV

4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

The scriptures give us every indication of God's just judgement. I believe when a child dies God accepts that child into His eternal presence, into everlasting life. That means you will see them again, in eternity!