

WHAT HAPPENS TO BABIES WHEN THEY DIE?

2 Samuel 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

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2 Samuel 12:15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

2 Samuel 12:16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

2 Samuel 12:17 And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

2 Samuel 12:18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

2 Samuel 12:19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

2 Samuel 12:20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

2 Samuel 12:21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

2 Samuel 12:22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

2 Samuel 12:23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

2 Samuel 12:24 And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

2 Samuel 12:25 And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

PREMILIMINARIES:

Romans 12:15

Rejoice (Χαίρειν μετὰ χαιρόντων) with them that do rejoice,

and **weep** (καὶ κλαίειν μετὰ κλαιόντων) with them that weep.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore **comfort** one another with these words.

Job 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, **they came** every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him. **Job 2:12** And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, **they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.**

Job 2:13 So they **sat down with him** upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and **none spake a word unto him:** for they saw that his grief was very great.

1 Corinthians 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Philippians 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, **and rejoice with you all.** **Philippians 2:18** For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me. **Philippians 2:28** I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

Hebrews 13:3 Remember them that are in bonds, **as** bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, **as** being yourselves also in the body.

What do we do when &/ if a mother loses a baby?

1st: weep

2nd: help

3rd: be quiet / shut up / say nothing

The question has several levels and must be dealt with at several levels.

Personal:

Pastoral:

Biblical:

Theological:

PROBLEMS:

- **Many women lose babies**
- **Many, many more women lost babies in the past**
- **Very few texts deal with this!**
- **God has destroyed many babies in the Bible story**
- **The problem of original sin!**

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: They go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins;** **Ephesians 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in **the children of disobedience:** **Ephesians 2:3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

Ephesians 2:4 **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,** **Ephesians 2:5** **Even** when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **Ephesians 2:6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: **Ephesians 2:7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through

Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 2:8 For** by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not** of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Ephesians 2:9 Not** of works, lest any man should boast.

Roman Catholicism understands and takes more seriously than many Baptist “Original Sin”
Baptists often give children a free pass.

Or, some deny original sin.

Or, children are innocent!!!

- Of guilt?
- Of depravity (FHN)?

BIBLICAL POINTERS

The Bible really doesn't discuss this much at all...the best we can do is give pointers:

A. A historical argument

Deuteronomy 1:37 Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, **Thou also shalt not go in thither. Deuteronomy 1:38 But** Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it. **Deuteronomy 1:39 Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it. Deuteronomy 1:40 But** as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

Isaiah 7:15 Butter and honey shall he eat, That he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. **Isaiah 7:16** For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, The land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

Jonah 4:11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

This is generally called: The Age of Accountability

This leaves us with 3 conditions of children: safe → lost → saved

What's the weakness of this? What age??

B. A Biblical | textual argument

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, **that** we through patience and comfort of the scriptures **might have hope.**

Romans 15:13 Now **the God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

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2 Samuel 12:23 **But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.** **2 Samuel 12:24** **And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.** **2 Samuel 12:25** **And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.**

A. Before loss → hope in God!

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I call this the “**uncertainty principle!**”

Joel 2:13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, And turn unto the LORD your God: For he is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness, And repenteth him of the evil. **Joel 2:14** **Who knoweth if he will return and repent, And leave a blessing behind him; Even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?**

Amos 5:15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: **It may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.**

Jonah 1:6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, **if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.**

Jonah 3:9 **Who can tell if God** will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? **Jonah 3:10** And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Zephaniah 2:3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, Which have wrought his judgment; Seek righteousness, seek meekness: **It may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.**

1 Samuel 14:6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: **it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the**

LORD to save by many or by few. 1 Samuel 14:7 And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.

2 Samuel 16:11 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. **2 Samuel 16:12** **It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.**

2 Kings 19:4 **It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rab-shakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.**

B. During loss → hope in God!

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The God of hope gives hope:

Not just the specific words

But more so the actions of David

Which demonstrate David had found hope in God and the future.

And was able to share that hope with Bathsheba.

NT believers have even more specific hope than that...

Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. **Philippians 1:21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:22** But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. **Philippians 1:23** For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: **Philippians 1:24** Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: **2 Corinthians 5:7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **2 Corinthians 5:8** We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

C. After loss → hope in God!

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2 Samuel 12:24 **And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.**

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I call this:

Nathan's other message

Solomon's **other** name

3. A theological premise / argument

Genesis 18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: **For all his ways are judgment: A God of truth and without iniquity, Just and right is he.**

Job 34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, Neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

Psalms 58:11 **So that a man shall say, Verily** there is a reward for the righteous: Verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.