

NOT ALL ROADS LEAD *to* HEAVEN

ARE CHILDREN WHO DIE IN HEAVEN?

Selected Scriptures

January 10, 2016 | DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

INTRODUCTION: Throughout this series we have seen that only those who exercise faith in Jesus Christ for salvation will be welcomed into Heaven. But what happens to infants, small children, or the mentally challenged who die? Does their inability to trust in Christ condemn them to an eternity in Hell?

I. God Has a Special **Love** for Children (Mark 10:14-16)

Psalm 139:13-16 “¹³For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from Thee, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.”

Ezekiel 16:20-21 “²⁰Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me, and you sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter? ²¹You slaughtered My children, and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire.”

Matthew 18:2-4 “²And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, ³and said, ‘Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’”

Mark 10:14-16 “¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, ‘Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.’ ¹⁶And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them.”

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II. God Views the **Inherited** Sin of Children Differently Than the **Willful** Sin of Adults (Ezekiel 18:20)

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—”

Ezekiel 18:20 “The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.”

Deuteronomy 1:39 “Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them, and they shall possess it.”

III. Children Have Not Rejected God’s **Revelation** (Hebrews 3:18-19)

Hebrews 3:18-19 “¹⁸ And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient. ¹⁹ And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.”

Hebrews 3:12 “Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.”

Hebrews 3:7b-9 “^{7b} TODAY, IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, ⁸ DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, ⁹ WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED ME BY TESTING ME, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.”

Romans 1:18, 20 “¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

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IV. Salvation Is Based on God's **Grace**, Not on Our **Faith** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

V. The **Promise** of 2 Samuel 12:21-23

2 Samuel 12:22-23 “²²And he said, ‘While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.’ ²³‘But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.’”

Conclusion