

Babies and Little Children in Heaven

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Excerpts from *Life Is Forever*

Sometimes, *as* you know, little babies die in this world. When it happens it is a very sad thing for the mother and father and for the family, because they love the little baby, and want very badly to have it with them. One thing they can be absolutely sure about though is that the baby is going to be as happy as a baby could possibly be in heaven.

Where do you think babies go when they die? They go right to heaven. They don't go to the world of spirits like other people, because they need to be looked after by angels right away. It doesn't matter where a baby is when he dies, or who his mother and father are. Every baby is taken by the Lord into heaven. They go to a special heaven which is very close to the Lord, because the Lord Himself carefully looks after these little babies.

When they get there they are still babies, because their minds are the minds of babies. Angel mothers are given these babies to look after, and they love them very much indeed. While these mothers were on earth they loved babies more than most people do. Sometimes a mother might have more than one baby because looking after babies is something she is very good at.

Now a baby in heaven is different in some ways from a baby on earth. One way is that he has a spiritual body, which is far better than a body on this earth. That spiritual body learns to walk much more quickly and easily than babies do on earth. It doesn't have to learn to balance and so on, and it seems stronger right away. The same is true of talking. People in heaven don't have to learn a language the way we do. Here we speak English, and in another country they might speak French or German or Spanish. In heaven they all talk the same way, and everyone understands them. So little babies find they can talk much more quickly than babies here. Of course they still talk about baby things. Later as they grow up, they learn lots of things about their life in heaven.

The Writings tell us that there are beautiful gardens in heaven where the babies go to play. Their mothers put flowers around their necks, and they go with some grown women, and with the girls of about sixteen or seventeen too, into a special park. In that park there are pathways they walk along, and there are flowers hanging down over the pathways, and the paths seem to take them further and further into the garden. Haven't you often seen a path that seems to go into the woods and trees of a lovely garden and you wanted to walk down it, and see where it led you? That is one of the things children in heaven do, and they are quite safe going far into those gardens.

When children come into heaven they are the same age as they were on this earth. If a baby dies at one year old he will be one year old in the other world when he wakes up. But they do grow up. It's just the same as on this earth except that they grow a little more quickly because they have such fine teachers.

The angel teachers are able to do special things which we can't do, although we might try. The Word for the New Church tells us about how babies in heaven learn about Easter. For example, they are taught that after Easter morning, the Lord went down very close to hell, and lifted up all

the good people that the evil spirits had been making unhappy. The little children in heaven love to hear this story, and it seems to them that they are actually seeing it. They want to help the Lord to lift up those people that the hells were hurting so much, so they let down what seems to be little strings, and try to make the Lord's job a little easier by helping Him. In this way they learn what He did to help those people, and they also learn that angels try to help the Lord in the wonderful, kind things He does.