

Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.

PROPRIETOR OF

# ELLEN G. WHITE Publications



Office Address:

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON 12, D. C.

September 11, 1961

Salvation of Infants

*See also  
Mrs. Release # 114  
2SM 260-*

P. O. Box 454  
Loma Linda, California

Dear Sister

I have your letter which we received at our office yesterday. The questions you asked are not easily answered. We do not have a clear-cut answer from Ellen White on all of these points. I think it has been the general opinion among Seventh-day Adventists that children below the age of accountability, that is, the time when they can decide for themselves, may be judged in the judgment with the reward or fate of their parents, or a believing parent. However, Sister White makes no clear-cut statement on this point.

The following statement in Prophets and Kings seems to us to have bearing on this point. It reads as follows:

"So was the faith of this woman rewarded. Christ, the great Life-giver, restored her son to her. In like manner will His faithful ones be rewarded, when, at His coming, death loses its sting, and the grave is robbed of the victory it has claimed. Then will He restore to His servants the children that have been taken from them by death. 'Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears; for thy work shall be rewarded, . . . and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border.' Jer. 31:15-17." Prophets and Kings, p. 239.

In a letter written by Mrs. White on November 27, 1899, to a sister who had just called upon to lay in the grave a child, Mrs. White wrote as follows:

A. V. OLSON  
President

F. D. NICHOL  
Vice-President

A. L. WHITE  
Secretary

D. A. DELAFIELD  
Associate Secretary

"You inquire in regard to your little one being saved. Christ's words are your answer: 'Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 18:16)

"The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be laid away before the time of trouble. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts. Put your trust in the Lord, and be not afraid.--Letter 196, 1899." Selected Messages, vol. 2, p. 259.

In the book Selected Messages, Book 2, pp. 259 and 260, there is presented a statement Sister White published in the Youth's Instructor in 1858. This statement leaves us with the desire to ask Sister White a few more questions on the point. Nevertheless I shall give it to you. These are words that Sister White penned on the death of a child of her own twin sister, Elizabeth Bangs. Her twin sister did not accept the Sabbath truths. Sister White appealed to her on another occasion and endeavored to place the truth before her sister, but each one is to make his own choice in his relationship to God and the truths of His word. When Elizabeth Bangs' daughter died, Sister White wrote these words, and I shall quote them here:

"Our fondest hopes are often blighted here. Our loved ones are torn from us by death. We close their eyes and habit them for the tomb, and lay them away from our sight. But hope bears our spirits up. We are not parted forever, but shall meet the loved ones who sleep in Jesus. They shall come again from the land of the enemy. The Life-giver is coming. Myriads of holy angels escort Him on His way. He bursts the bands of death, breaks the fetters of the tomb, the precious captives come forth in health and immortal beauty.

"As the little infants come forth immortal from their dusty beds, they immediately wing their way to their mother's arms. They meet again nevermore to part. But many of the little ones have no mother there. We listen in vain for the rapturous song of triumph from the mother. The angels receive the motherless infants and conduct them to the tree of life.

"Jesus places the golden ring of light, the crown upon their little heads. God grant that the dear mother of 'Eva' may be there that her little wings may be folded upon the glad bosom of her mother.--The Youth's Instructor, April, 1858."--Selected Messages, Book 2, pp. 259-260.

It seems that I recall reading somewhere in a letter or a dairy entry from Sister White that this question--the question of the salvation of children who have not reached the age of accountability was one which was perplexing and she did not feel that the Lord had given the full answer to that question.

This is the best information I have on this point. It is a question that we must leave with the Lord, knowing that He doeth all things well. I think we should avoid being too dogmatic in our position. There is some-  
things that the lord has left without giving us the full answer.

May the Lord bless you as you walk in the light that He has given.

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary  
ELLEN G WHITE PUBLICATIONS

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