

Q + A 31-C-42

Salvation of infants

April 11, 1958

See also

MS - 76, 1885

MS Pelham 114

Mr. R. L. Cheney
15 Roberts Avenue
Rutland, Vermont

Dear Brother Cheney:

We have your letter of April 4 which contains a series of questions in regard to the salvation of infants. I do not know of any explicit statements either in the Bible or the Spirit of prophecy which would give a definite yes or no answer to these questions. However, it is my understanding that Seventh-day Adventists generally believe that until a child is old enough to know right and wrong, the attitude of the parents toward salvation and their standing in the sight of God will be accepted for the child. Two texts seem to bear this out, Jer. 31:15-17 and 1 Cor. 7:14. Note also Sister White's comment on the former text in Prophets and Kings, p. 239.

Another text having a bearing on this point is Isa. 49:25.

Sister White does have much to say about the responsibility of parents toward the children. See Child Guidance, p. 235, and Adventist Home, p. 187. Read also Child Guidance, pages 560-569, especially page 566. You might also be interested in studying the E. G. White references on Obadiah 16. See Desire of Ages, p. 763, Early Writings, p. 276, Great Controversy, p. 545, and Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 541.

We have come across one statement in Sister White's writings which indicates that there will be some infants in heaven whose mothers are not there. Just how we are to understand this I do not know. Possibly the fathers or some other relative who has had a care for the child is there. The statement reads:

"As the little infants come forth immortal from their dusty beds, they immediately wing their way to their mother's arms. They meet again never more 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 ring of light, the crown, upon their little heads."--Youth's Instructor, April, 1858, p. 29. This statement will also appear in the book Selected Messages, Book II, p. 260, which will be on sale soon.

Mr. R. L. Cheney - 2

Trusting that this information will be of help to you as you study these various questions, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Bessie Mount, Office Secretary
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

BM/lc

REC'D APR 8 1958

SOUTHERN VERMONT DISTRICT OF S.D. A.
15 Roberts Avenue
Rutland, Vermont
April 4, 1958.

Ellen G. White Publications
General Conference of S.D.A.
Takoma Park
Washington 12, D.C.

Dear Bretheren,

The Young People in their class study a few weeks ago had a question arise in their discussions that has bothered them considerably. Their teacher could not answer it, and referred it to me. I have heard the problem discussed before but was unable to find "thus said" proof in the Scriptures or writings of Sis. White. So I have told them to wait until I can communicate and study further.

The question they have is: Do all babies and children go to Heaven? Is it contingent upon what their parents are? If a child dies before the age of accountability will he be resurrected in the first resurrection at Christ's coming? Will they possibly be as though they had not been, or will they in their innocence be allowed entrance into heaven? Does the heredity of the child have any bearing on the matter?

Any help you can give relative to this question will be greatly appreciated.

We sincerely "Thank You" for the ^{help you will give realizing the} trouble that this may put you too.

Your brother,

R. Lenbert Cheney

R. Lenbert Cheney.
(Pastor So. Vt. District of S.D.A.)

CG 365-566
see "The Records" pp 566-569

EG 235: 2- held responsible for children
AN 197

Jer. 31: 15-17

PK 239

1 Cor. 7: 14

Isa 49: 24

Obad 16

Rom 2: 11-16

DA 763 EW 64, 221, 276 GC 545 PP 541