

Innocent Children

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.

- **Numbers 14:31** But your little ones, which **ye said should be a prey**, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

Question: though God's people said the children would be a prey, God said they would go in; so who was right?

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

Question: who did the conceiving, David or the mother? If it was the mother, who was guilty in this scenario?

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

Question: do babies speak from the time they are born? Could the generational curses in the Commandments fit in here as inherited tendencies and propensities? "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." Exodus 20:5b

Isaiah 48:8 Yea, thou **heardest not**; yea, thou **knewest not**; yea, from that time that thine **ear was not opened**: for I knew that thou wouldest **deal** very **treacherously**, and wast called a **transgressor from the womb**.

Question: called a transgressor by whom? Also, with the context speaking about Jacob becoming Israel (a reference to Jacob's conversion at an adult age), and that conversion having occurred after Jacob had been proven a liar, and EGW having used the same text in reference to the church as a whole needing conversion, could we apply this to babies? Here is the statement one paragraph earlier from where EGW uses this verse in question, "Who can now feel sure that they are safe in respecting the voice of the General Conference Association? If the people in our churches understood the management of the men who walk in the light of the sparks of their own kindling, would they respect their decisions? I answer, No, not for a moment." 1888 1567.2 (Consider the fact that the Bible asks if a nation can be born: see, Isaiah 66:8.)

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Question: I cannot find any references to God sanctifying sin, so what, by default, is the child in the womb?

Jeremiah 31:15-17 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; **Rahel weeping for her children** refused to be comforted for her children, because **they were not**. ¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD; **Refrain thy voice** from weeping, and **thine eyes from tears**: for **thy work** shall be **rewarded**, saith the LORD; and **they shall come again from the land of the enemy**. ¹⁷ And **there is hope** in thine end, saith the LORD, that **thy children shall come again** to their own border.

- **Matthew 2:16-18** Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, ¹⁸ In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Hosea 13:12-14a The **iniquity of Ephraim** is **bound** up; his **sin** is **hid**. ¹³ The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he is an unwise son; for he **should not stay long in the place of the breaking forth** [birth] of children. ¹⁴ I will **ransom them from the power of the grave**; I will **redeem them from death**.

Question: the Hebrew word for “breaking forth” is also translated “birth.” So then, could we believe that the words “ransom” and “redeem” in use for the children means that they will be saved from “the grave” and “from death?”

Matthew 18:2-3 And **Jesus called a little child** unto him, and set him in the midst of them, ³ And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be **converted**, and **become as little children**, ye shall **not enter into the kingdom** of heaven.

Question: does this scenario prove that Jesus Christ believed that little children will be in the Kingdom of Heaven? (See Matthew 19:14)

Romans 9:11 (For the **children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil**, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

Question: in the judgment, would it be fair to condemn babies that have died young who have not “done any good or evil?”

1 Corinthians 7:14 For the **unbelieving husband** is **sanctified** by the **wife**, and the **unbelieving wife** is **sanctified** by the **husband**: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

Question: since this is not talking of babies, does this verse say that unsanctified parents bring up unclean children, while believing parents bring up holy children?

James 4:17 Therefore to him that **knoweth** to do **good**, and **doeth it not**, to him it is **sin**.

Question: do babies know to do good or evil?

EGW quotes from the search “innocent children”

"His spirit, wearied with the bustle and confusion of the crowded city, tired of association with crafty and hypocritical men, found rest and peace in the society of INNOCENT CHILDREN. His presence never repulsed them." GW92 404.3

Question: the spirit in 'innocent children' wasn't repulsed from the purity in Christ... so, what spirit must be within them?

"Others, more mercifully dealt with, were shot down in cold blood, as, unarmed and helpless, they fell upon their knees in prayer. Hundreds of aged men, defenseless women, and INNOCENT CHILDREN were left dead upon the earth at their place of meeting."

Question: would the Lord withdraw access to the kingdom from someone who is considered an 'innocent child?'

"Herod, who slew the INNOCENT CHILDREN of Bethlehem that he might destroy the King of Israel..." GC 667.2

Question: will the Lord send 'innocent children' to burn with the likes of Herod after the 1,000 years?

"Men and women have no right to follow impulse, or blind passion, in their marriage relation, and then bring INNOCENT CHILDREN into the world to realize from various causes that life has but little joy, but little happiness, and is therefore a burden." 2SM 421.2

Question: what kind of children do impulsive, blind and impassioned people bring into the world?

"Thus has this class perpetuated their deficiencies, and cursed their posterity with poverty, imbecility, and degradation. These should not have married. At least, they should not have brought INNOCENT CHILDREN into existence to share their misery, and hand down their own deficiencies, with accumulating wretchedness, from generation to generation, which is one great cause of the degeneracy of the race. 2SM 421.3

Question: what kind of children do deficient, poverty stricken, imbecile, couples bring into this world?

"Did [Agrippa] think of his great-grandfather Herod, and the massacre of the INNOCENT CHILDREN of Bethlehem?" 6BC 1066.10

"They recalled the terrible massacre of innocent children by the cruel Herod in hope of destroying the king of Israel." 2SP 34.1

Question: again, what kind of children were massacred when Christ was young?

"You know what these commandments are as well as I do. I love your soul and the soul of your wife and the souls of your INNOCENT CHILDREN, and this is why I now address you.

Consider carefully the way your feet are tending. I have more to say, but not now. Will you please to answer me, and return to me the letter containing the dream, as I requested. 5T 628.2
Yours with much sorrow and pity and love." 5T 628.3

Question: the man being spoken to had lost his way... how did EGW refer to his children?

"We have also Bro. R. and his wife with four helpless children. He does his level best to support his INNOCENT CHILDREN, but they are in want all the time." WM 331.1

Question: the man being spoken about is a faithful brother with what kind of children?

"Satan has tempted human beings to disregard the law of marriage as a thing unholy, but at the same time he has opened the door for the indulgence of human passion. Thus have come into existence some of the greatest evils which curse our world,—adultery, fornication, and the murder of INNOCENT CHILDREN born out of wedlock." BEcho August 28, 1899, par. 5

Question: what kind of children are murdered while born out of unholy wedlock?

"It is painful to reflecting minds to thus see INNOCENT CHILDREN, as well as those of mature age, dressed like victims for sacrifice, in order to make a display." HR March 1, 1874, par. 9

Question: what are children called when inappropriately dressed in cold temperatures by their parents?

"You will find the little children will be apt learners, for they have clear minds and can recognize the truth and purity of the Scriptures. Their quaint thoughts will burst forth now and then like buds in the springtime, fresh and original. Lt26-1879.3

God loves the INNOCENT CHILDREN. If Jesus and heavenly things are connected with and woven into their feelings and fancies, they will receive upon the tablets of the heart the lessons of heaven and eternity. No man can receive the kingdom of heaven except it be with the SPIRIT OF A LITTLE CHILD." Lt26-1879.4

Question: are innocent children apt learners, having clear minds, being able to recognize truth and the purity of the Scriptures?

"We think we can see a way to remedy this evil. In presenting this matter I appeal to you mothers to give your children a right education. First they must be taught that they cannot have their own way. Teach them from the cradle that all stimulants should be abhorred. They should not be educated as we often see in Basel. While the servants are out promenading with the children who have been entrusted to their care, they are often seen entering the places where wine and beer can be had, and they give to the INNOCENT CHILDREN that which in afteryears will cause them to fill drunkards' graves. Thus they are giving them an education that will pervert their appetites, and when older they will depend on these stimulants. Little by little they are overcome and are placed out of the reach of help." Ms26-1887.12

Question: do influences from the cradle affect the lives of innocent children to potential lead them in the wrong direction in afteryears?

"We shall now speak of a work that is left undone. In sending children to the common schools, parents are placing them under demoralizing influences—influences that corrupt morals, habits, ways, and manners. They are, as it were, being nurtured in a den of thieves, among corrupters of habits and practices. They receive instruction of such a character that they are trained to be enemies of Christ. They lose sight of true piety and virtue. The baneful influence of vile-hearted boys and girls who practice the most degrading habits—boys and girls who are experts in sin—permeates the schools and has a degrading power over INNOCENT CHILDREN. And the children playing on the street are also obtaining a training that thoughtless parents will sometime learn leads to recklessness and lawlessness." Ms129a-1901.1

Question: Godly education is important, yet is it paramount that parents also give their children the very best influences in their younger years to keep them from corruption of true piety and virtue?