

HOW OLD WILL A PERSON BE IN HEAVEN?

To answer this question...

I. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE FOR GROWING OLDER IN THIS WORLD

A. Growing older in this world is a part of God's plan for perpetuation of the human race. It is God's plan for children to grow up and to marry and to beget their own children. Growing older and maturing physically is a necessary part of God's ordained plan for the human race (Gen. 1:28; 9:1).

B. Growing older in this world allows us to gain wisdom for living in this world and for serving God in greater ways. Growing older is a necessary part of this process. It takes time for a child to mature and gain wisdom for living in this world. This is also true concerning the children of God (Heb. 5:12,13; II Pet. 3:18).

C. Growing older in this world allows us the opportunity to encounter various experiences and to serve the Lord in different capacities. Samuel and Daniel for example served the Lord as young men into their old age (I Sam. 3:1; 8:1; Dan. 1:6,21). Through those years they both encountered various experiences as God's servants and they served in a variety of ways.

II. WE NEED TO CONSIDER WHAT THE SCRIPTURES SAY IN REGARD TO AGE AND GOD'S KINGDOM

A. The Scriptures say that children are a part of God's Kingdom (Matt. 19:13-15). This text shows that children who reach the age of accountability and believe on the Lord are saved and become a part of the Kingdom of God.

B. The Scriptures say that children will be a part of the millennial Kingdom (Isa. 11:8,9; Zech. 8:5). These are no doubt children born during the millennial reign to those who have natural and not glorified bodies.

C. The Scriptures also say that Samuel who died and went to paradise, which used to be in the heart of the earth, was brought up as an old man for Saul to see (Isaiah 28:11-14). But we must understand that this manifestation of Samuel was a unique accommodation for Saul to see and that Samuel did not have a glorified body. Old Testament saints will receive their glorified bodies at the Second Coming of Christ (Dan. 12:1-3).

III. WE NEED TO CONSIDER A CERTAIN FACT IN THE CREATION OF ADAM AND EVE

A. Notice when God created Adam and Eve He created them as mature adults. They didn't need to grow older to produce off-spring and to perpetuate the human race (Gen. 1:27,28). It was God's plan for them to be mature.

B. It should be noted if Adam and Eve had not disobeyed the Lord and been cut off from God spiritually they would never have experienced the effects of aging and would not have died. In that case their children would have been born and then grown up to the same mature age like Adam and Eve and remained at that age.

IV. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND A CERTAIN PRINCIPLE WHICH MANIFESTS ITSELF THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES

A. Here's the principle - God wants us to mature and reach a stage of completion spiritually speaking (Eph. 4:11-15; Heb. 6:1,2).

B. Notice in the same sense God's will for us physically is to be complete. And one day the effects of the curse will be removed and our bodies will no more be plagued with all kinds of afflictions (Phil. 3:20,21; Rev. 21:4; Isa.35:6). This will no doubt include the reversal of the aging effects of sin so that there will be no younger or older glorified bodies. There will only be mature glorified bodies.

C. This principle of maturity will no doubt include all those aborted babies who were never given the chance to grow physically in this world. When they receive their glorified bodies they will be complete and mature ones.

V. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT CHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE WHEN WE LEAVE THIS LIFE

A. If we leave this life before the rapture occurs our soul will be with the Lord (II Cor.5:8). There we will await our resurrection body which we will receive when the rapture occurs(I Thess.4:13-18).

B. When we receive our resurrected body it will be like Christ's resurrected body. It will be free of corruptible things such as disease and aging and not subject to death (I Cor.15:53).

C. How old will people be then in heaven? I believe everyone will be of a mature age and complete with no youthful inabilities nor effects of aging. Just how old will that be? There is some Scriptural evidence to suppose that this age might well be 30 years old. A priest in the O.T. began his ministry at age 30 (Num. 4:3,35). The Lord Jesus filling this requirement began His ministry at age thirty (Luke 3:30).

While no one now knows for sure it seems that whatever the age of maturity is that will be the age of all those in heaven throughout all eternity.

This means there will be no babies needing bibs or old men needing bifocals!