

Memories

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TEXT: Isaiah 65:17 "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

INTRO: A. I have stood beside parents as they gave doctors permission to withdraw life support from their children. I have stood beside tiny coffins as parents placed their baby's bodies in the ground. I have stood beside a J/W couple whose 8 year old little girl came to church on one of our buses and got saved, but was burned in a kitchen fire so horribly that you could not recognize her – her nose, ears and fingers & toes had been burned off. But because of all that the J/W couple got saved and will see her again in heaven. I have comforted my wife after 3 miscarriages.

B. Some interpret Isaiah 65:17 as saying that we will have no memory of our earthly lives in heaven. However, one verse earlier in Isaiah 65:16, the Bible says, "the former troubles are forgotten, and they are hid from my eyes." It is likely only our "former troubles" will be forgotten, not all of our memories. Our memories will eventually be cleansed, redeemed, healed, and restored, not erased. There is no reason why we could not possess many memories from our earthly lives. The memories that will be cleansed are the ones that involve sin, pain, and sadness.

Revelation 21:4 declares, "And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

C. A foolish objection is that heaven will be too vast to find our friends and loved ones. Let two people loose, even in New York City, and they may never find each other. This can only be a problem, however, for those who have a small concept of the power and wisdom of God. Even men devise systems of communication, like directories, and computers and GPS so people can find one another. Are we to suppose that the holy city of God is without some systematic means of communication? I expect to be able to contact any person in history with no problem. To think otherwise is to think of God as less than a computer.

I. RECOGNITION IN HEAVEN?

A. Bible Examples:

1. Abraham was "*gathered to his people*"

Gen 25:8 *Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.*

- This cannot refer to burial since "*his people*" were buried hundreds of miles away.
- In these days, before Christ "*led captivity captive*" from the heart of the earth to heaven or Paradise saints went to "Abraham's bosom".

2. Jacob mourned for his son Joseph when he thought he was dead.

- The "grave" in the O.T. was the compartment of the saved.
- It is where the beggar of Luke 16 went to be comforted.

Gen 37:35 *And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.*

3. Jesus' prophecy of a heavenly gathering:

Matt 8:11 *And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*

NOTE: We will not only know each other in heaven, but we will not really know each other until heaven. We know each other only in part in this life. In heaven all the problems that prevent complete intimacy will be gone.

4. The Transfiguration:

- Moses and Elijah had been dead for centuries, but Peter, James and John recognized them.

Matt 17:1-3 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart; 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

5. The Judgment:

Matt 25:34-36 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

- a. This passage plainly reveals that our memory will be better in heaven than down here.
- b. At the judgment we will be rewarded for the good we have done, even if we can't recall those events now.

6. Rich Man & Lazarus: **Luke 16:19-31**

- a. The unsaved who die live forever in flaming torment & feel great pain and have an active memory of things on earth and have reasoning ability.
- b. The saved are "comforted" and live forever in peace.

7. Those we win to Christ:

1 Thess 2:19-3:1 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? 20 For ye are our glory and joy.

8. Onesimus:

Philem 15-16 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever; 16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

II. BABIES & CHILDREN IN HEAVEN?

NOTE: Babies do not have minds that can comprehend nature around them or a conscience within them. We cannot treat the question, "Is my child in heaven?" the same way we treat the question, "Are the heathen in heaven?" Adult men and women have had the opportunity to consider and to reject the witnesses that God has given of Himself. Babies, on the other hand, are guilty of having a sin nature, but they have not weighed the evidence and rejected God. They have not been condemned by their own actions as the heathen have.

A. Children Who Die in Infancy:

1. While it is true that babies and small children have sin natures, it isn't until they reach the "age of accountability" that they either choose sin or right and either choose Christ or not.

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

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

2. While babies have sin natures they have not yet "sinned"!

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...

B. Will Babies Be Babies in Heaven?

1. Saved mothers who have lost babies or have had babies aborted before they were saved will surely see those babies again in glory.
2. This does not mean they will still be babies, however.

NOTE: There is no biblical proof for this one way or the other, but it seems logical that babies will not have to endure eternal infancy. If babies cannot fully enjoy this life, how could we expect them to fully enjoy eternal life with God? A child's lack of understanding doesn't deter the power of Jesus' blood. Only rejecting the blood deters its power, and babies haven't done that.

3. David expected to be reunited with his son in heaven.

2 Sam 12:23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

III. HUSBANDS AND WIVES IN HEAVEN?

A. Jesus Definitely Answered This Question:

Matt 22:30 *For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*

1. Jesus is our Bridegroom and we are His bride.
2. Our intimacy with our Bridegroom will be much deeper with our heavenly Bridegroom than was possible with our earthly partner, if they were saved.
3. I personally believe that we will have a much more intimate relationship with all believers, when we are in heaven.

Face to face! O blissful moment!
Face to face--to see and know;
Face to face with my Redeemer
Jesus Christ Who loves me so.

B. Will We Know Each Other in Heaven?

1. We will not lose our identity in Heaven; including our names.

Phil. 4:3 *And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow laborers, whose names are in the book of life*

2. We shall know as we are known! We will not be as dumb in heaven as we are down here.

CONCL.: Our perfect Savior has a perfect plan for all who will live with Him in the glory land. Surely it is better than our time on earth. We will "**know as we are known**", because we "**see through a glass darkly**" down here and He will be the Light of Heaven. It is somewhat humorous to think that we will be less smart or less conscious of our surroundings in Heaven and the people we meet there (even if for the first time!) than we are here.

P.S. [My view of Heaven (**not** thus saith the Lord) is that we perhaps will be able to recall in a visual and audible way all the events of the Bible. Imagine seeing Jonah being swallowed by a whale or David killing Goliath. In fact, I will be a little disappointed if I can't get to fellowship with Moses and Joshua or Paul or Peter in Heaven. Our God is omnipotent and can do anything to please His children! I also look forward to seeing my son Dean and my wife Shirley and maybe even our 3 miscarried children! I am looking forward to seeing YOU there as well...if you are saved!]