

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

6)	10 January 2026	1Samuel 15	Obedience
7)	17 Jan	Psalms 139	Value of Life
8)	24 Jan	1Samuel 16	Anointed
9)	31 Jan	1Samuel 17	Victory
10)	07 Feb	1Samuel 18-21	Friendship
11)	14 Feb	1Samuel 22-24	Respect
12)	21 Feb	1Samuel 25	Discernment
13)	28 Feb	1Samuel 26-31	Guidance

INTRODUCTION

- **Sanctity of Life.** This Psalm is frequently used to show how valuable each life is. So, let's begin there before moving to the other aspects of this Psalm.
- **The Value of Life – What is at Stake?** 1) The soul of the child;
2) The future life of the child – who would have an opportunity to know the Lord and lead a fruitful life with rewards in Heaven;
3) Our own soul – it is either enriched or impoverished depending on our support for the unborn, the weak, the perishing, for we are to deliver those being taken away to slaughter..... **Prov 24:11-12**

Passage	Comments
Psalm 139:13-16	God's Sovereignty Over Every Birth • This passage highlights the wonders of embryonic development – and God's involvement • We are not human tissue to be discarded like garbage, but purposefully made to fulfill a specific plan by God (<i>"My days were ordained for me before there was even one"</i>) • When we disrupt God's intent for someone's life (including our own) through murder (suicide) or sin, we do not thwart God's sovereign will, but we do shortchange ourselves, and we impact others for generations
Do ALL Babies and the Mentally Handicapped go to Heaven?	• Scripture is rather silent on the subject. No explicit teaching on it. • One of the best affirmative responses comes from Albert Mohler, a staunch Calvinist, and President and Professor of Christian Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, http://www.albertmohler.com/2009/07/16/the-salvation-of-the-little-ones-do-infants-who-die-go-to-heaven/ • Issues. Naturally, God being gracious and merciful, we think the prospect for Him to doom innocent infants and mentally handicapped to Hell is inconceivable. However, there are issues to consider: 1. Conceivably, since a sovereign God knows which babies would be miscarried, aborted, mentally handicapped, or die in infancy/childhood before the so-called age of accountability He could easily choose to instill a 'chosen' or 'elect' soul into those infants, and thereby circumvent the need for reconciliation since they would not need to atone for any sins (Mohler's position). • Which means they died without sinning. Though, no one is perfect, God's grace through Christ presumably saves them • ISSUE: God becomes a respecter of persons based on age or mental capacity. 2. If ALL babies do go to Heaven, then, conceivably, the best form of evangelism is abortion and infanticide. • ISSUE: Satan would be fighting for pro-life 3. If ALL babies go to Heaven, at what point is the age of accountability when babies flip from being Heaven-bound to Hell-bound? • ISSUE: If it is not 20 years of age as noted in Num 14:28-31, then it is very subjective and undiscernible • Problem with Calvinism on this Issue: John Calvin says God was our enemy until we were reconciled to Him by Christ [Calvin Institutes 2.16.2]. A conclusion can be drawn from this (and other similar statements by Calvin) that all babies and mentally handicapped individuals who do not have the ability to participate in the reconciliation process are unable to attain Heaven. This is why true Calvinists (Presbyterians) believe in the salvation aspect of infant baptism. Calvin agrees with Plato that children of loyalty (i.e., the elect) are distinguished at birth with some special qualities [2.3.4]. ISSUE. Calvin has no Scriptural basis for this belief. If it was possible to test babies at birth for their distinguished special qualities that mark them as the elect, then some would want to have mercy on the others and abort/slay them before they add sin upon sin and be judged even harsher at the end of their lives • Scripture Justification. There are passages of Scripture that are often used to show that the infant-minded might be Heaven bound: a) 2Samuel 12:14-23. King David's son, from his immoral relationship with Bathsheba, died and David commented that "I will go to him, but he will not return to me." Some use this passage to show that all babies go to Heaven.

Passage	Comments
	ISSUE. However, that is a misapplication. First, if David's son did go to Heaven, and David knew it to be so, it could have been because David was also a prophet, and God could have revealed that information to him. So this passage could not be applied to all babies. In all likelihood, David was referring that he would join his son in the grave as he too would die one day. b) 1Kings 14:13. King Jeroboam's son died young because God saw something good in him. Again, some take this to universally show that all young children go to heaven if they were to die in their innocence. ISSUE. That interpretation applies bad hermeneutics since the passage is only addressing one particular child, and his eternal destiny is not directly indicated as being Heaven bound; only that God's grace would keep him from being eaten by dogs as the rest of his family would be. c) Ezekiel 16:21. "You have slain my children." This was God's charge against Israel for sacrificing "His" children to false idols. Again, some use this to universally show that all babies go to Heaven, but again, that is bad hermeneutics for this passage. ISSUE. At best we can only assume those children sacrificed were Heaven-bound, but not necessarily so. God also considered all Israel as His people, His children, His nation; but we know "they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel" (Rom 9:6). IOW, not all Israelites are Heaven-bound, though all Israelites are considered God's people, God's children. d) Mat 19:14. Jesus said, "Permit little children to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." ISSUE. Childlikeness is what gets someone into Heaven; and not just being a child. Isaiah 9:17 depicts children who were destined for Hell – "Nor does [God] have pity on their orphans or their widows; for every one of them is godless and an evildoer" • Last Thoughts. Scripture is very silent on this subject of whether or not some, ALL, or no infants and the infant-minded automatically go to Heaven upon their death. Arguments abound pro and con, but they all have weaknesses. The Catholics, not finding a reasonable solution in the Bible, contrived in the 13th century the concept of LIMBO for unbaptized infants & the mentally handicapped. In recent years the Catholic church has formally and officially backed away from that belief and concluded that all children who die do so in the expectation of "the universal salvation of God" and the "mediation of Christ", whether baptized or not. In effect, they believe that all children who die go to Heaven. Recall that Calvin's answer to this predicament, like the Catholics and Presbyterians, was to have all infants baptized to assure their entrance into Heaven. • CONCLUSION. We have to admit that "secret things belong unto God" (Deut 29:29). We can only go as far as the Bible goes, and assume the best – that God will do what is righteous and just. When we get to Heaven ourselves, we will more fully understand, and we will glorify God whether some, none, or ALL infant-minded souls are covered under the blood of Christ.

Do ALL Babies and the Mentally Handicapped go to Heaven? (continued)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- **What** are we doing to protect and nurture the unborn?
- We **need** to look at the unborn as having the inalienable right from God to live, to grow, and to make a choice for or against God



"THE GREATEST DESTROYER OF LOVE AND PEACE IS ABORTION, WHICH IS WAR AGAINST THE CHILD. THE MOTHER DOESN'T LEARN TO LOVE, BUT KILLS TO SOLVE HER OWN PROBLEMS. ANY COUNTRY THAT ACCEPTS ABORTION IS NOT TEACHING ITS PEOPLE TO LOVE, BUT TO USE ANY VIOLENCE TO GET WHAT THEY WANT." - MOTHER TERESA

Now, the rest of the Psalm...

Passage	Comments
Psalm 139:1-6	1 Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I get up; You understand my thought from far away. 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, Lord, You know it all. 5 You have encircled me behind and in front, and placed Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot comprehend it. - Is there anything God does not know about us? - Since God knows our most intimate thoughts, feelings, ambitions, fears, hopes, and even our lusts, how should we then live? - Should we be afraid to do anything? - Or should it make us bold in our Christian walk?
139:7-10	7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take up the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will take hold of me. Know this. The ONE and only Triune God is omniscient (All-Knowing), omnipotent (All Powerful), omni-present (He is Everywhere), and He is Eternal. He is the creator and sustainer of all things. He loves mankind so much He willingly sacrificed His Son for our sins so we can spend eternity before His Holy, Perfect, & Righteous presence.
139:11-12	11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night," 12 Even darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. Consider this. God even had to create darkness Ps 104:20
139:13-16	Sanctity of Life 13 For You created my innermost parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret and skillfully formed in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes have seen my formless substance; and in Your book were written all the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them. See Page 1
139:17-18	17 How precious also are Your thoughts for me, God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You. - Should we somehow keep count of God's blessings on our behalf? - Is there a way to tally them on a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual basis? Consider this. Keep a prayer and/or Bible reading journal and annotate when and how specific prayers are answered and when you receive unexpected blessings or challenges.
139:19-22	19 If only You would put the wicked to death, God; Leave me, you men of bloodshed. 20 For they speak against You wickedly, and Your enemies take Your name in vain.

Passage	Comments
	21 Do I not hate those who hate You, Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? 22 I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies. - Should we seek the demise of those who seek our demise, or should our response be to bless and pray for those who spitefully use us? Mat 5:44 - And should we hate what God hates, including those who hate Him? - Is the concept "We must hate the sin but love the sinner" biblical per this passage?
139:23-24	23 Search me, God, and know my heart; Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there is any hurtful way in me and lead me in the everlasting way. - Are we brave enough to ask God to put us to the test to see if we truly love Him? - Would we pass the test? - What would our limit of pain be? Loss of ☐ Health or ☐ Wealth or ☐ Life or ☐ Something else?

ADDITIONAL CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Knowing all this additional information about God and what He knows about us, how should we then live and take our faith to the next level?
- And what would that look like?
 - Would we be more effective witnesses and prayer warriors?
 - Would we accomplish more for God's Kingdom?
 - Or would we get ourselves crucified?

