

When I got back home at 0630 I gave Corri a brief update and headed off to bed for a few hours. After work that night I walked Jimmy through what happened. He wanted to know where the baby was and why.

I figured that you would have similar questions as well, so we are putting Peter on hold this week to briefly answer the following four questions:

Why Did This Happen?

Where Is He Now?

Are You Sure?

How Can We Help?

Why Did this Happen?

Knowledge

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29.29 ESV

Fallen

We sin because we are sinners. Everyone does not go to Heaven. No one deserves Heaven (we have original and actual sin) and no one can merit Heaven (we do not possess righteousness).

Infants who die are given a special dispensation of the grace of God... when that child is received into heaven, he is received by grace. (Piper or Sproul?)

Then why do they die? We all die because of:

Inherited guilt (original sin) - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Romans 5.18-19 ESV

... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. Ephesians 2.3
ESV

Peter

Suffering should not surprise us. God has explained suffering so it is no longer "senseless" suffering. We no longer wonder if God has forsaken us, if He has ceased to bless us, if we are at the mercy of fate or demons. We know troubles are temporary.

Gospel

Because of what God has done for us and will do for (and to us. We live in light of that day on Calvary and live in expectation of that day in the future. We don't escape trouble, but we can persevere in them and not turn away from God because of them.

Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. The Father knows what it is to lose a Son because of a fallen and sinful world.

Where Is He Now?

With the Lord

And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23.43 ESV

...and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect... Hebrews 12.23 ESV

Resurrection

Are You Sure?

Certainty

No text that addresses this issue. Christians in ages past have had different perspectives on what happens: baptism, age of accountability/responsibility, children of the elect, all go to hell because of original sin.

Probability

But Scripture is not silent either. We can piece certain things together as we would truths like the Trinity.

Mystery

But there are things we will still not totally understand the how and why of. These are the "secret" things.

Gospel

The “things revealed” about God, which cause us, and enable us and motivate us to love and follow and obey Him are best – and most fully – revealed in the Gospel. His holiness and justice and love and mercy and power are all there and all on display.

There is plenty about this I do not get. But I get Him...

Some pieces of the puzzle:

Infants who received grace

But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me. 2 Samuel 12.23 ESV

... and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1.15b ESV

No unbelief and rejection of God/Christ

The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me. Luke 10.16 ESV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever

since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1.18-21
ESV

No Actual Sin

He will render to each one according to his works... Romans 2.6 ESV

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 2 Corinthians 5.10 ESV

How Can We Help?

Pray

Today – Mellissa, extended family, Dave (leadership and wisdom)

Tuesday at 1030

Whenever you think about them

Cry

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
1 Thessalonians 4.13 ESV

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's

womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” Job 1.20-21ESV

Acts 8.2; 20.37-38

Today - Ok to cry – not to talk

Ahead – ok to talk but not to speculate (if only 2 more weeks, what is God saying, family genetics or curse)

Food

Thanks to their caregroup – thanks to Chris

Coordinate with your caregroup leader

Arm Yourself

Westminster Confession of Faith

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem or Charles Hodge

Safe in the Arms of God by John MacArthur

Web sites: MacArthur, Sproul, Mohler, Piper

Build relationships now so you can give or receive in crisis.

[Watch Your Heart](#) – young married men

[Guard Her Heart](#) – from speculation and fear. Point her (and you) to “things revealed” in the Gospel.

Let's Pray