

Question: What age will we be in heaven? I have heard we will all be 33, the same age Christ was when He died. And what about aborted babies and people that die in their 90's. Will we all be the same age?

Answer: The Bible never explicitly tells us how old we will be in heaven. Therefore, I believe we cannot definitively know the answer to this question. Isaiah 11:6-9 speaks of an earth where “the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also, the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

Since the larger context of Isaiah is concerned with an eternal kingdom of God on earth, it seems inappropriate to restrict this passage to the millennium (the 1,000 year kingdom of Christ that ends in rebellion and destruction of human beings). The end of sin and the complete righteousness of all earth's inhabitants won't come until the new earth (Rev 21-22). But if Isaiah 11 is speaking of the new earth, as does its parallel passage in Isaiah 65, it seems that the little boy, the nursing child, and the weaned child will be resurrected at the same age of development as when they died. They will then have the opportunity grow up and reach the optimal age of physical development.

This can be argued from the following examples. It appears from Genesis that God created Adam and Eve as adults. Apparently, they were created at the optimal stage of physical development because God declared them “very good” (Gen 1:31). When Jesus died, He was resurrected at the prime of his physical development. Since scholars now believe that Jesus was born in about 5 B.C. and probably was crucified in A.D. 33, He was at least 35 years old when He died and possibly as old as 38 or 39. When Jesus was resurrected He came back in a body that was recognizable by His followers, so He must have appeared to be about the same age as when they knew Him.

Since our bodies will be like Jesus' resurrection body (Phil 3:20-21), it is likely that the Lord will give us a body that reflects how we looked at the prime of our earthly life. For those who died before they reached the prime of life, the Lord, who knows all things, will give them a body that reflects how they would have appeared at the optimal stage of development in their life.

It is also possible that on the new earth we will appear ageless. Since we will not suffer any of the effects of the fall, we can expect that all of heaven's inhabitants will have a youthful zeal despite their age.