

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Babies**

"A loud noise at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other." – Ronald Knox, definition of a baby

"Of all the joys that brighten suffering earth, what joy is welcomed like a new-born child?" – Caroline Norton

"I love these little people; and it is not a slight thing when they, who are so fresh from God, love us." – Charles Dickens

"A baby is born with a need to be loved – and never outgrows it." – Frank A. Clark

"A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities." – Eda J. Le Shan

When babies enter the world we smile and marvel at something that is so innocent, yet defenseless and vulnerable. And we don't just speak to them, but often find ourselves making faces and smiling at these little bundles of joy.

It is hard to believe that we too were once held in someone's arms. We were nurtured and cradled, and perhaps heard various songs or lullaby's. No matter who you are, we all enter the world the same way.

For young couples, bringing a child into this world is such a great joy. "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them...." (Psa. 127:4-5).

In a sobering reality, as we look upon a new-born baby, comes the thought of responsibility. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Remember too, the warning, "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother" (Prov. 29:15).

And while we know the joy of a new-born child, think of this also in terms of a new-born Christian. The Lord Himself said that one must be "born again" (John 3:3,5). Peter admonished, "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2). When we start our life anew as a Christian, we are like a new born baby.

But one other application comes to mind, and that is that little children, i.e. babies, need to be taught about God from the time they are born into this world. "And that from childhood (as a babe or infant) you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15).