

# The Evil Eight-Year-Old

There are many people who claim that all children are entirely innocent. These people teach that children don't understand good and evil; since they're young, God doesn't hold them responsible for the things that they do. Although God holds adults responsible, He lets children go free.

If you believe that then you might find this verse a bit shocking:

**II Chronicles 36:9:** “Jehoiachin was **eight years old** when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and **he did that which was evil** in the sight of the Lord.”

An eight-year-old “did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord”. An *eight-year old*. Let that sink in for a minute: God Himself called an eight-year-old child *evil*.

How could God do such a thing? Because God is no respecter of persons. Nowhere in the entire Bible does God ever say that children are incapable of sin or that God doesn't hold children responsible for what they do. In fact, He says quite the opposite:

**Proverbs 20:11:** “**Even a child is known by his doings**, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.”

This idea that children are incapable of sin is simply not Biblical. A graphic illustration of this can be found in the book of 2 Kings. After Elijah was taken up to Heaven, Elisha encountered a mob of little children. These children told Elisha that they

wanted him to “go up” as Elijah had – in other words, they wanted him to die. These children hated God's anointed prophet and wanted him dead. God's response to this was quite brutal:

**2 Kings 2:23:** “And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth **little children** out of the city, and **mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.**

24 And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And **there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.**”

Do you see how God responded? God could have said “Well, they're just little children so I'm going to let this pass” – but He didn't. Instead God sent two bears to *tear the children limb from limb*. I repeat: the passage says that these were *little children* – and God brutally slaughtered them for their sin. Their young age did not save them. Sin is sin no matter how old you are – and the wages of sin is death.

This idea that God doesn't hold children responsible for what they do is not Biblical. God did not hesitate to call an eight-year-old child evil, and He did not hesitate to judge the sins of a mob of children who were threatening Elisha. It's high time that we started believing what the Bible actually says about children, instead of believing what we wish was true.