

“How old art thou?”
Genesis 47:8 KJV

***“How many are the days of
the years of thy life?” ASV***

1

How Old Are You?

- In Jacob’s reply he recognized:
 - Life as a pilgrimage. Hebrews 11:13
 - Peter besought God’s scattered children “*as strangers and pilgrims*” (1 Peter 2:11)
 - “This world is not my home ...” (Genesis 49:33; Ecclesiastes 12:5, 7).
 - His years had been few and evil. (He was 130, died at 147 years, Genesis 47:28)
 - Life has always been considered fleeting (Job 14:1-2; James 4:14)

2

Many Who Are Old Have Contributed The Most

- Moses. (80 years old) Exodus 4:10
 - Died at 120. Deuteronomy 34:7
- Abraham (100 years old). Genesis 15:15; 17:17; Romans 4:19
 - Died at 175 years old. Genesis 25:7
- Sarah (90 years old). Genesis 17:17; 18:11; Hebrews 11
 - Died at 127 years old. Genesis 23:1

3

Many Who Are Old Have Contributed The Most

- Daniel.
 - A youth when taken captive. Daniel 1:4ff
 - Captivity spanned 70 years. Jeremiah 25:11-12
 - Over 80 when appointed by Darius, to be one of three governors over the kingdom of Babylon. Daniel 6:1-3
 - Cast into the den of lions, during the reign of Darius. Daniel 6:4-27

4

- *Ephesians 5:15-16, “Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*

5

Assurances

- Life is brief. James 4:14; Job 14:1-2; Psalms 90:10
- Death is certain. Ecclesiastes 9:5; Hebrews 9:27
- Judgment will come. Acts 17:31ff; Romans 14:12

6

Age Is To Be Honored

- “Honor the face of the old man” (Leviticus 19:32).
cf. Genesis 48:1-12
 - NOTE: In ancient times, this was more than an act of courtesy, but an absolute duty.
- Proverbs 16:30, “The hoary head is a crown of glory; It shall be found in the way of righteousness.”
- Proverbs 20:29, “The glory of young men is their strength; And the beauty of old men is the hoary head.”
- cf. 1 Timothy 5:1 Treat him as a father.

7

Dangers Of Old Age

- Thinking years alone bring wisdom. Job 32:7
- Thinking years mean weakness. Joshua 14:6-12
- Living in the past. Joshua 14
 - cf. Caleb 85 years old (verse 10) when he drove out the inhabitants of Hebron. (40 when sent in as a spy. Verse 7)
 - Ecclesiastes 7:10 cf. “good old days”
- Thinking there is honor in longevity.
 - Methuselah (Son of Enoch) lived 969 years. (Genesis 5:27; Luke 3:37)

8

Dangers Of Old Age

- Becoming sour and grumpy. 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1; Ecclesiastes 12:1; cf. 7:1
- Unfaithfulness to God. Romans 13:11-14; Philemon 9; cf. 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 18

It is not how we start the race, but how we finish it that really counts.

9

Responsibilities Of The Aged

- Pass it on.
 - Titus 2:1-8
 - 2 Timothy 1:5; 2:1-2, 14
 - 2 Peter 1:12-15
- Encourage. Revelation 2:10

10

Responsibilities Of The Aged

- Wise counsel. 1 Kings 12:6-7
- Teaching for the younger.
Psalms 71:17-18; 78:1ff

11

Conclusion:

- As the evening shadows lengthen,
“I press on ...” *Philippians 3:13*
- We know not the future, but we know the God who does.
2 Timothy 1:12, “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” KJV

12