



“How Long Have I to Live?”

2Samuel 19:31-39



“How Long Have I To Live?”

- Barzillai the Aged chose to trust God rather than David for the disposition of the end of his life - 2Sam. 19:31-39
- It is a part of God’s design that profound changes come to one’s body, mind and spirit as he ages - Ecc. 12:1-7
- The prayer of an old man for deliverance - Psalm 71:1-3, 5-9, 17-20



It Is A Question Of Faith

- How is the love of God manifested in the aging process?
 - I find myself in the role of David: loving the aged ones who did so much for me and wanting them to be rewarded in this world for their good deeds, rather than experience the pain and indignity of aging.
 - Wanting to prolong a relationship and present set of circumstances over which I do not have power.
 - Wanting to give them things they no longer want, use, or appreciate.
 - All the while, God has given them the moral instruction and both physical and spiritual desire to go home and wait for His call.



It Is A Question Of Faith

- How many precious soldiers of the cross, men and women, have we watched grow tired and incapable of maintaining their posts on the front lines?
- Where is the love of God in the aging process? How long do I have to live?

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Honor

- Lev. 19:32 - “You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD.”

- Job 32:4, 6 - “Now because they were years older than he, Elihu had waited to speak to Job. 6 So Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, answered and said: I am young in years, and you are very old; Therefore I was afraid, And dared not declare my opinion to you.”

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Honor
 - 1Chron. 29:28 - “So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor”
 - Prov. 23:22 - “Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.”



What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Wisdom
 - Job 12:12 - “Wisdom is with aged men, And with length of days, understanding.”
 - Job 32:7 - “I said, Age should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom.”

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Wisdom

- 1Kings 12:6, 8, 13-14 - “Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, How do you advise me to answer these people? ... 8 But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him... 13 Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; 14 and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!”

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Strength

- Isa. 46:4 - “Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.”
- Psalm 71:9, 17-18 - “Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails...
17 O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. 18 Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.”

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Strength

- Deut. 33:25 - “As your days, so shall your strength be.”
- Isa. 40:29 - “He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.”
- Joshua 14:7, 10 - “I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart... 10 And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.”

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Grandchildren

- Prov. 17:6 - “Children's children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father.”

- Ruth 4:13-15 - “So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! 15 And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.”

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Many Years

- A long life is not an entitlement; it is a gift

- Psalm 90:10 - “The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

- Gen. 25:8 - “Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.”

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Many Years
 - Job 5:26 - “You shall come to the grave at a full age, As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.”
 - Psalm 91:14, 16 - “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name... 16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”



What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Balance in life - a spirit that increases in strength as the body decreases in strength
- 2Cor. 4:16 - 5:10