

Genesis 47:8

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

How Old Are You?

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

Many Who Are Old Have Contributed The Most

- Moses. (80 years old) Ex. 4:10
 - Died at 120. Deut. 34:7
- Abraham (100 years old). Gen. 15:15; 17:17; Rom. 4:19
 - Died at 175 years old. Gen. 25:7
- Sarah (90 years old). Gen. 17:17; 18:11; Heb. 11
 - Died at 127 years old. Gen. 23:1

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

Assurances

- Life is brief. James 4:14; Job 14:1-2; Ps. 90:10
- Death is certain. Eccl. 9:5; Heb. 9:27
- Judgment will come. Acts 17:31ff; Rom. 14:12

Age Is To Be Honored

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

Dangers Of Old Age

- Years alone bring wisdom. Job 32:7
- Years mean weakness. Josh. 14:6-12
- Living in the past. Josh 14
 - cf. Caleb 85 years old (vs. 10) when he drove out the inhabitants of Hebron. (40 when sent in as a spy. vs. 7)
 - Eccl. 7:10 cf. "good old days"
- Honor in longevity.
 - Methuselah (Son of Enoch) lived 969 years. (Gen. 5:27; Luke 3:37)

Dangers Of Old Age

- Sour and grumpy disposition. 2 Cor. 4:16ff; Eccl. 12:1; cf. 7:1
- Unfaithfulness to God. Rom. 13:11; Philemon 9; cf. 2 Tim. 4:6-8, 18

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

Responsibilities Of The Aged

- Pass it on.
 - Tit. 2:1ff
 - 2 Tim. 1:5; 2:1; 14
 - 2 Pet. 1:12ff
- Encourage. Rev. 2:10

Conclusion:

- As the evening shadows lengthen, "I press on..." Phil. 3:13
- We know not the future, but we know the God who does. 2 Tim. 1:12