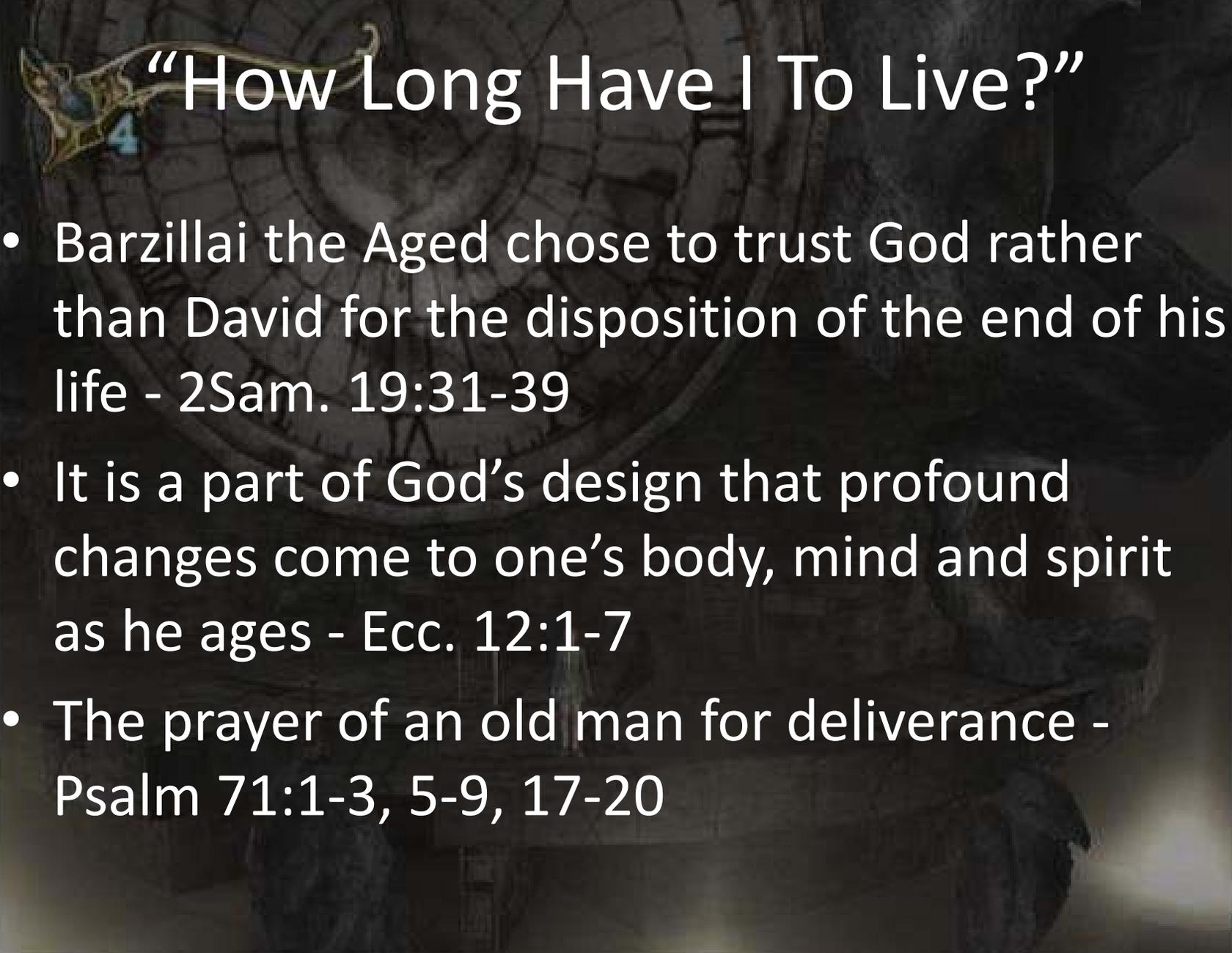


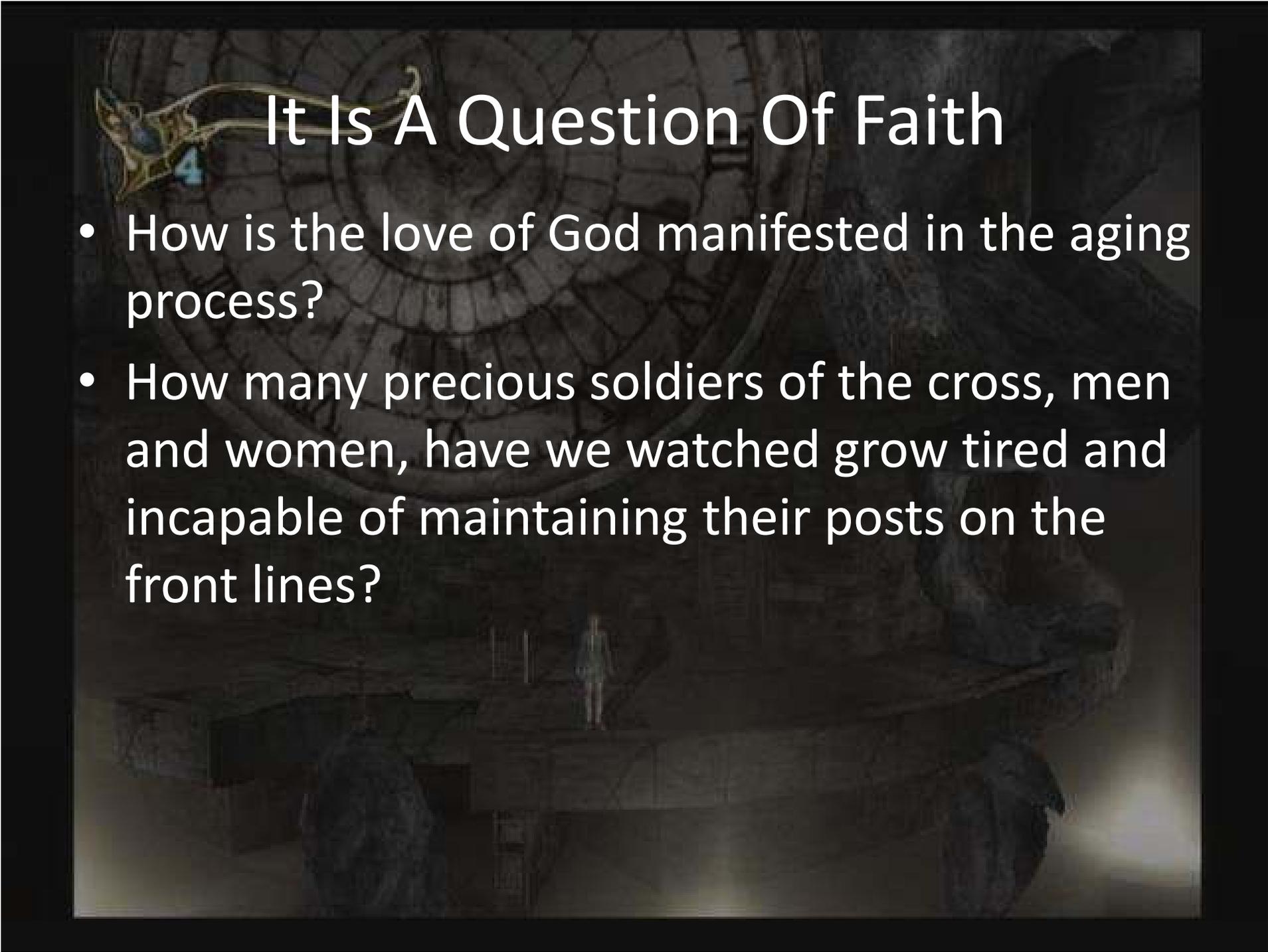
“How Long Have I to Live?”

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?
- 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?

What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

- Honor
- Wisdom
- Strength
- Grandchildren
- Many Years

God's Promise Of A Happy Long Life Is Conditional On Obedience

- Ex. 20:12 - "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."
- Deut. 5:33 - "You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess."
- Deut. 30:20 - "that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers"

God's Promise Of A Happy Long Life Is Conditional On Obedience

- Psalm 34:12-13 - “Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.”
- Prov. 3:1-2 - “My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.”

God's Promise Of A Happy Long Life Is Conditional On Obedience

- Prov. 9:10-11 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 11 For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.”
- Prov. 10:27 - “The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.”

God Has On Occasion Extended Life In Response To Prayer

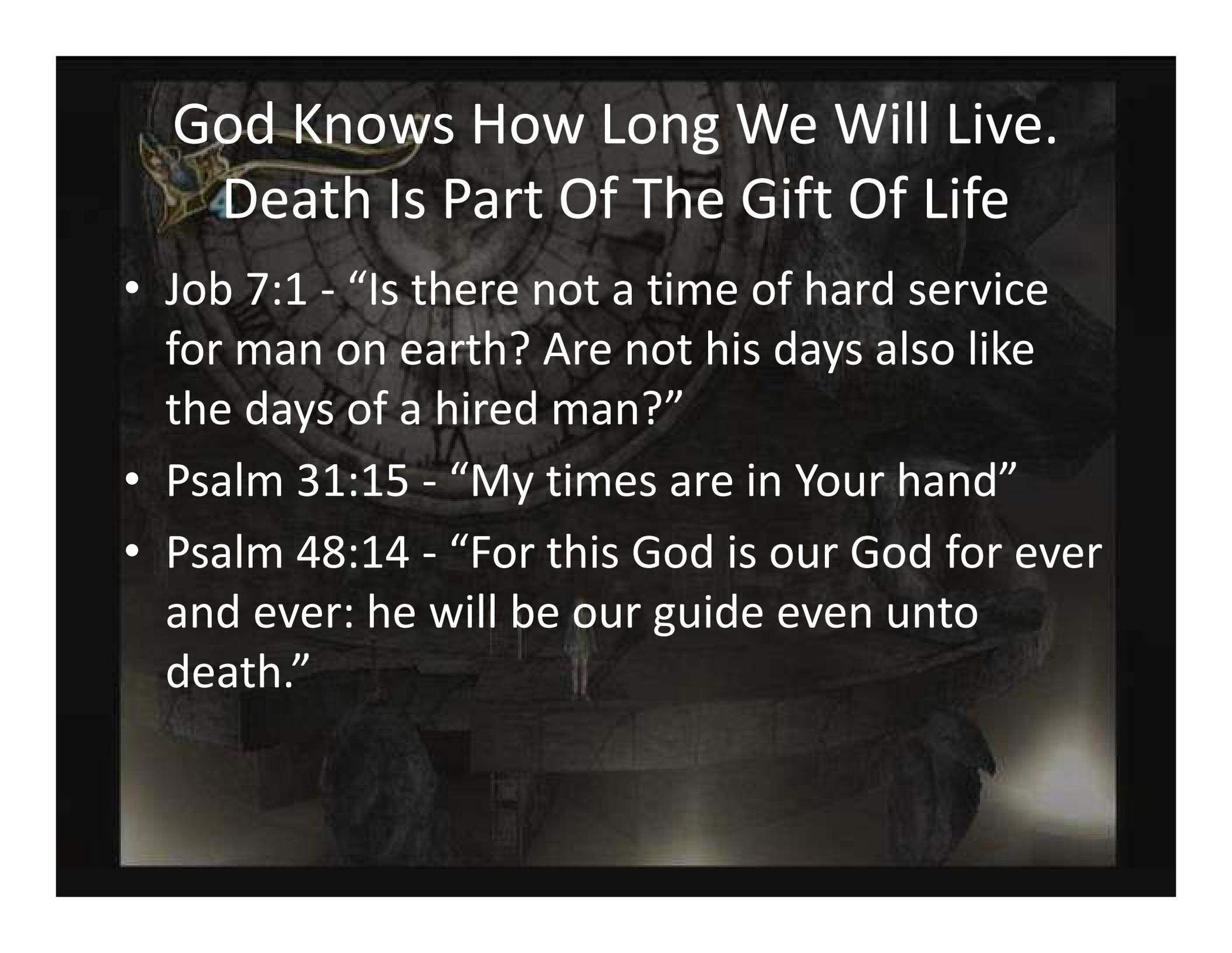
- 2Kings 20:1-7 - Hezekiah's 15 more years
- Psalms 21:4 - "He asked life from You, and You gave it to him-Length of days forever and ever."
- James 5:15 - "And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up."

God Said We Should Not Worry About Dying

- Gen. 27:1-4 - “Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, My son. And he answered him, Here I am. 2 Then he said, Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. 3 Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. 4 And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

God Said We Should Not Worry About Dying

- Gen. 35:28-29 - “Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years. 29 So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.”
- Heb. 2:15 - “...release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”



God Knows How Long We Will Live.

Death Is Part Of The Gift Of Life

- Job 7:1 - “Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hired man?”
- Psalm 31:15 - “My times are in Your hand”
- Psalm 48:14 - “For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.”

God Tells Us Our Time Is Limited

- Psalm 39:4 - "LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am."
- Psalm 90:12 - "So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom"
- Luke 2:26 - "And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ."
- 2Tim. 4:6-7 - "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

God Tells Us Our Time Is Limited

- 2Peter 1:14 - "...knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me."
- Job 12:10 - "In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?"
- Heb. 9:27 - "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment"

A Shorter Life Is Sometimes Better, If It Is God's Purpose

- Gen. 5:23-24 - “So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”
- Phil. 1:21 - “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Sometimes God Removes The Righteous So He Can Punish The Wicked

- Isa. 57:1-2 - “The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil. 2 He shall enter into peace...”
- 1Kings 14:12-13 - “Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. 13 And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.”

The Elderly Serve A Unique And Useful Purpose In The Kingdom

- Psalm 92:14 - “They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing”
- Ex. 7:7 - “And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.”
- Joel 2:28 - “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.”
- Titus 2:2-3 - “that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things”

The Elderly Serve A Unique And Useful Purpose In The Kingdom

- 1Sam. 12:1-2, 16, 19 - “Now Samuel said to all Israel: Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you. 2 And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day... 16 Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes... 19 And all the people said to Samuel, Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves.”

The Elderly Serve A Unique And Useful Purpose In The Kingdom

- Psalm 148:12-13 - “Both young men and maidens; Old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.”
- Luke 2:36-38 - “Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”

The Elderly Serve A Unique And Useful Purpose In The Kingdom

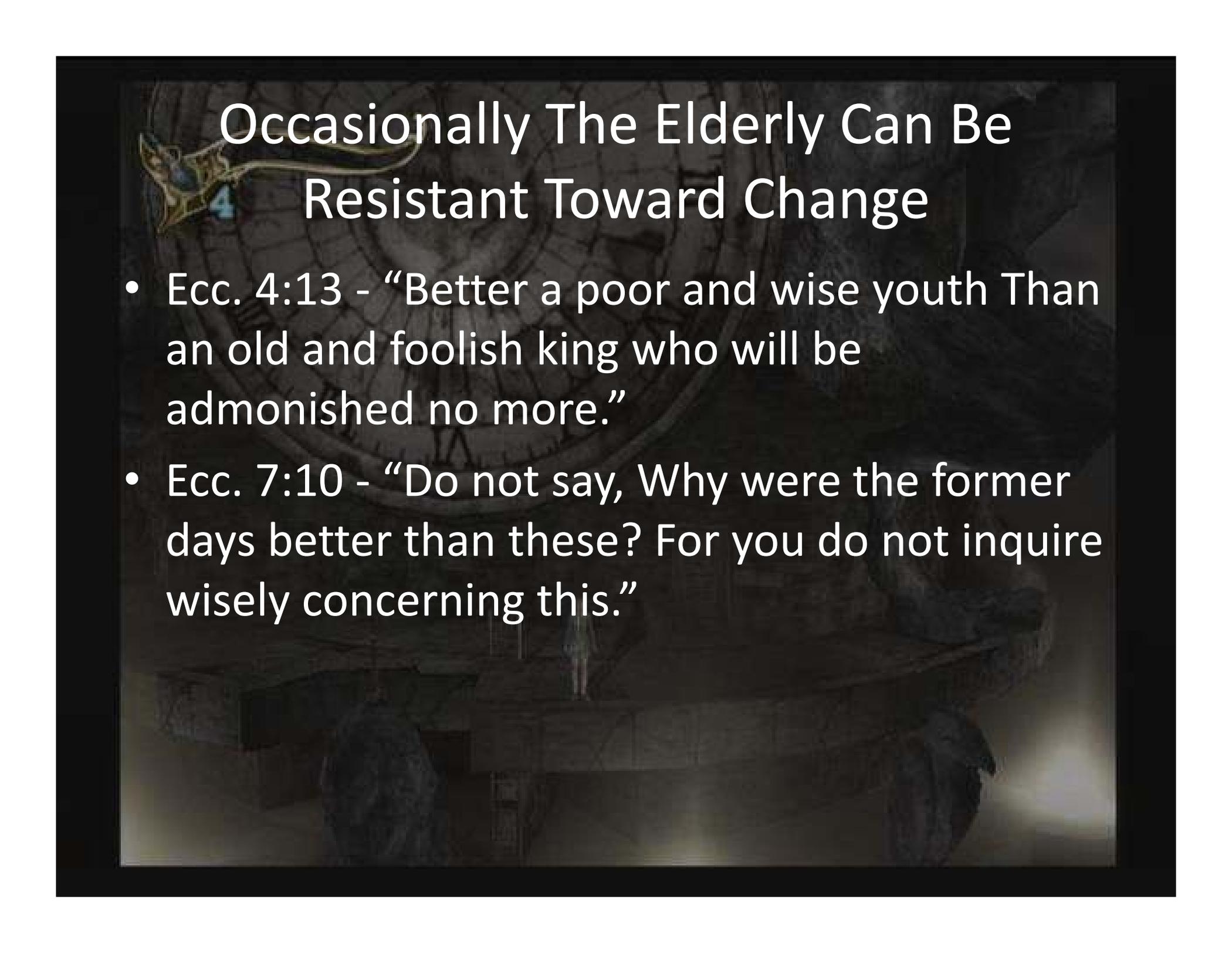
- 1Tim. 5:5 - “Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.”
- 2Tim. 1:5 - “When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”

A Lifetime Of Experiences Is A Treasure

- Psalm 37:25 - "I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread."
- 2Peter 1:12-15 - "For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease."
- Philemon 9 - "yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you - -being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ"

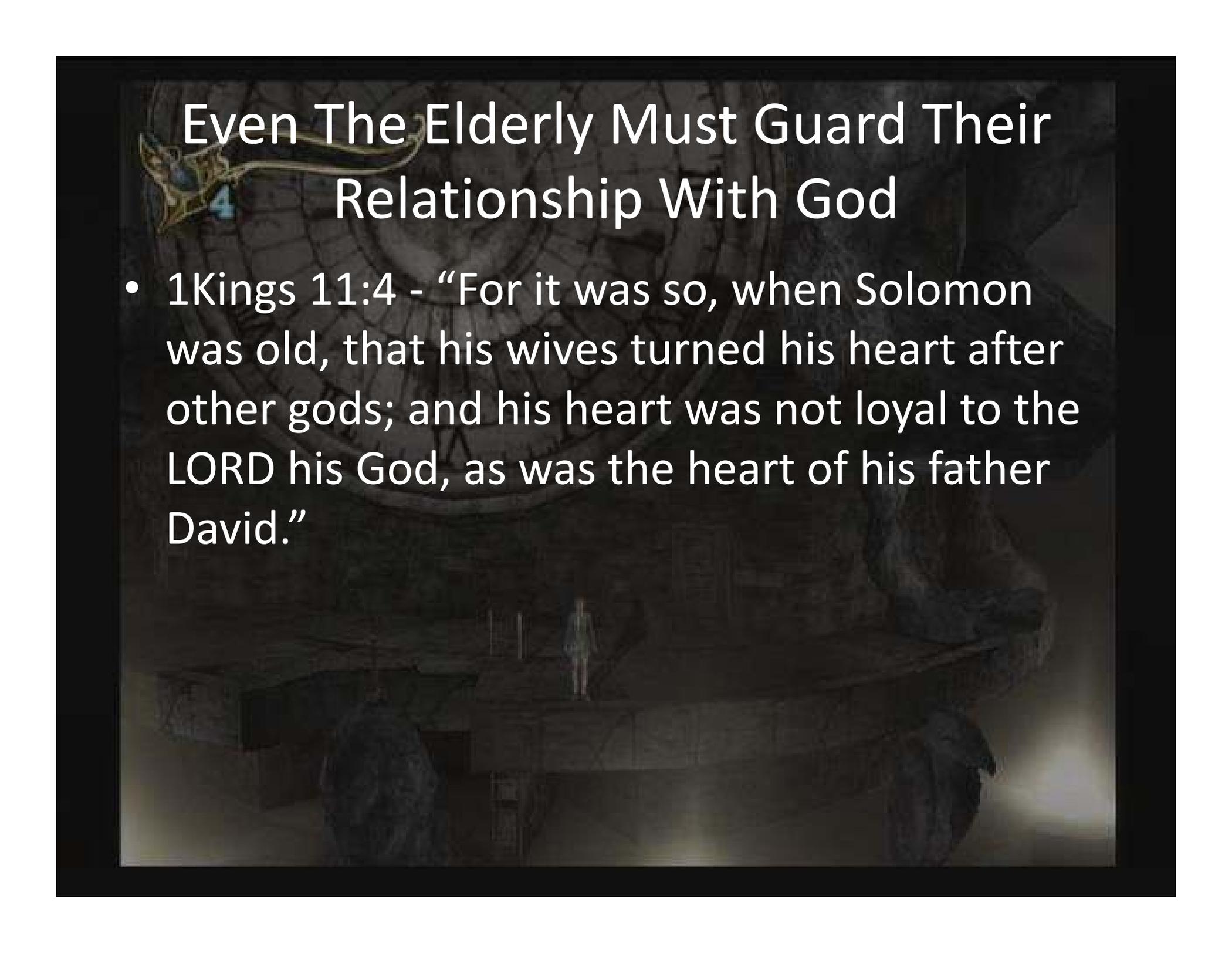
Age Alone Does Not Always Make One Wise

- Psalm 119:100 - “I understand more than the ancient ones, Because I keep Your precepts.”
- Prov. 16:31 - “The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness.”



Occasionally The Elderly Can Be Resistant Toward Change

- Ecc. 4:13 - “Better a poor and wise youth Than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more.”
- Ecc. 7:10 - “Do not say, Why were the former days better than these? For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.”

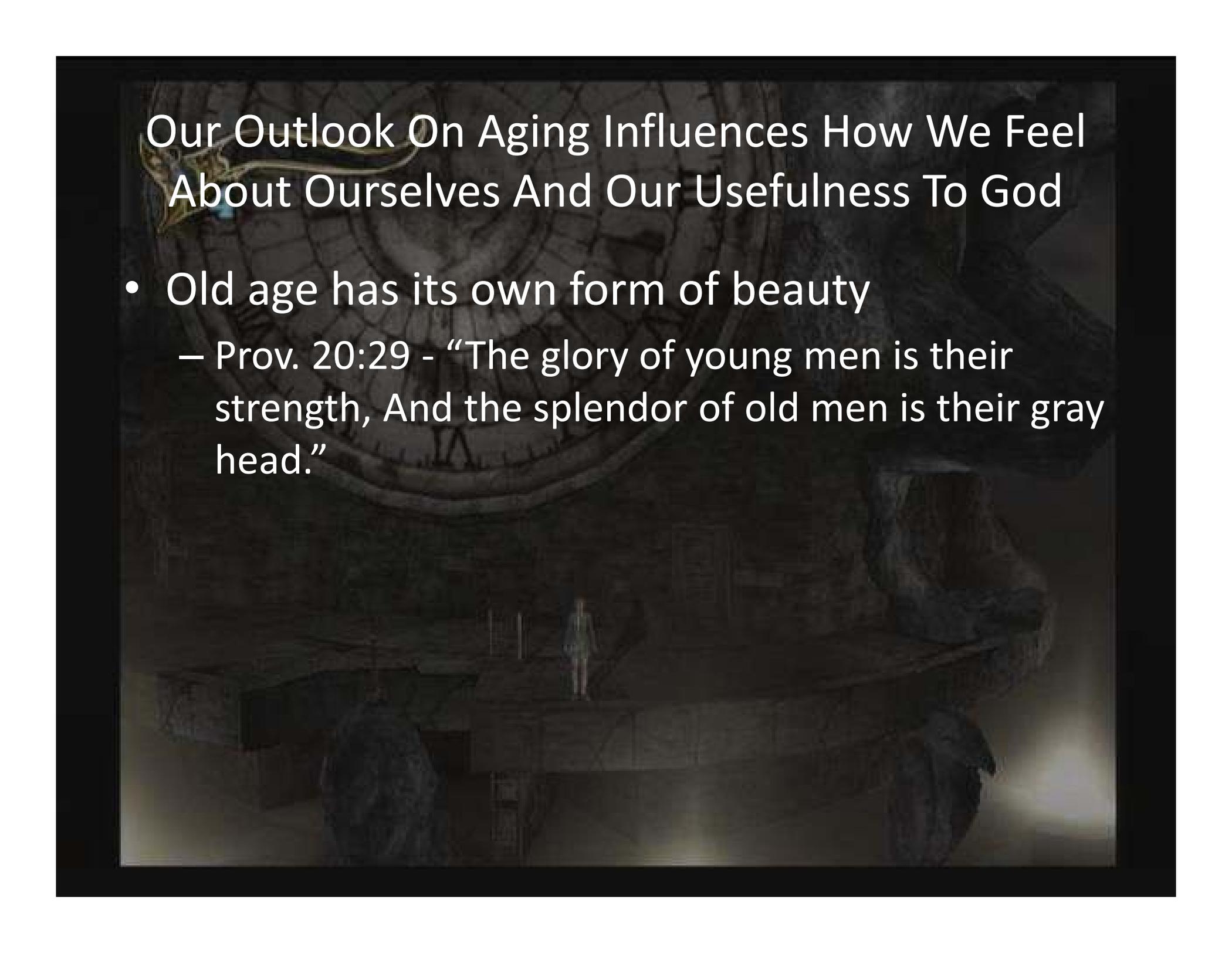


Even The Elderly Must Guard Their Relationship With God

- 1Kings 11:4 - “For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.”

The Value Of Life Exceeds Every Possession

- Job 2:4 - “So Satan answered the LORD and said, Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.”
- Matt. 6:25 - “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

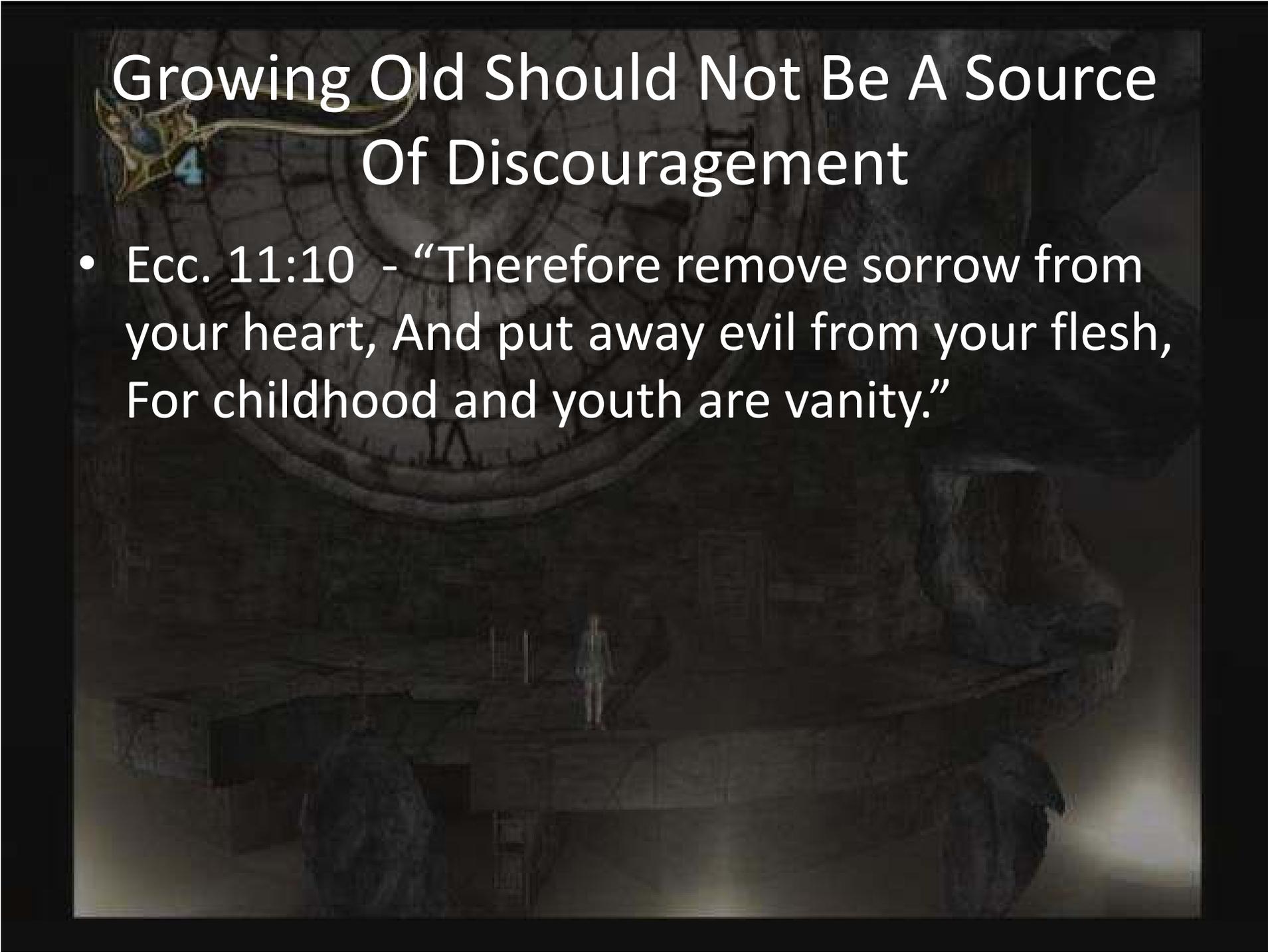


Our Outlook On Aging Influences How We Feel About Ourselves And Our Usefulness To God

- Old age has its own form of beauty
 - Prov. 20:29 - “The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men is their gray head.”

Our Outlook On Aging Influences How We Feel About Ourselves And Our Usefulness To God

- Old age is described in Scripture as good
 - Gen. 15:15 - “Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.”
 - 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.”
 - 1Chron. 29:28 - “So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place.”



Growing Old Should Not Be A Source Of Discouragement

- Ecc. 11:10 - “Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity.”



Old Age Is Only Temporary

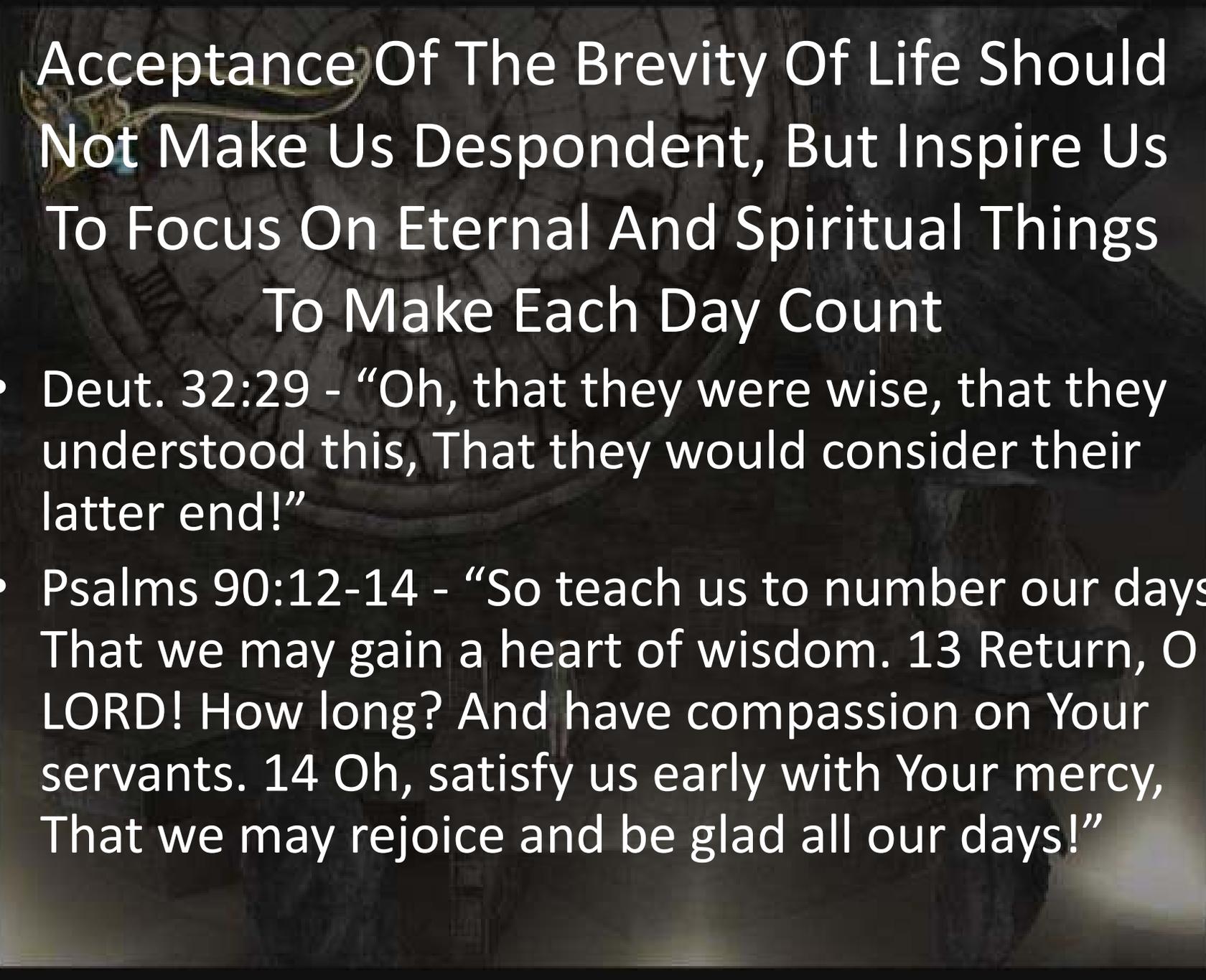
- Job 14:5 - "Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass."
- Psalm 89:47 - "Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men?"

Old Age Is Only Temporary

- Gen. 47:9 - "And Jacob said to Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."
- 2Sam. 14:14 - "For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him."

Life In This World Is Soon Forgotten

- Psalm 90:9 - “For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh.”
- Isa. 38:18 - “For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You...”
- Ecc. 6:12 - “For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?”
- James 4:14 - “whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”



Acceptance Of The Brevity Of Life Should Not Make Us Despondent, But Inspire Us To Focus On Eternal And Spiritual Things To Make Each Day Count

- Deut. 32:29 - “Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, That they would consider their latter end!”
- Psalms 90:12-14 - “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. 13 Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. 14 Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!”