

LONG LIFE IS A CONDITIONAL BLESSING

TEXT: *Psalms 91:16: With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.*

Exodus 20:12: Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Psalms 21:4: He asked life of Thee, and You gavest it him, even length of days forever and ever.

God wants us to live a long time on this earth. This is the way He started our human race. Most of those who were born in the historic morning up to and until the Flood lived upwards to 900 years. One made it to 969. God had to cut man's life span down to 120 years at the time of the Flood because of his sinfulness.



Man's sins and transgressions were against his fellow man and against the Lord.

Genesis 6:3: And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

God took a second strike at man's continuous rebellion in the days of David, and shortened his days again. This time to 70 years, so man took the second cut in his lifespan because of sin.

Psalms 90:10: The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

You should know that God still desires to give us a long life here on the earth, but He now makes it conditional. In the Ten Commandments, God promises to lengthen our days *if* we honour our fathers and mothers: ***that thy days may be long on the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. (Exodus 20:12)*** This is the very first Commandment that has a promise attached to it, and what

a wonderful promise it is! Long life on earth, that is great.

God here promises to lengthen out and multiply our days if we behave ourselves properly toward our parents. Long life here is regarded by God as a wonderful gift and a blessing from Him.

Proverbs 3:1-2:

1 My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments:

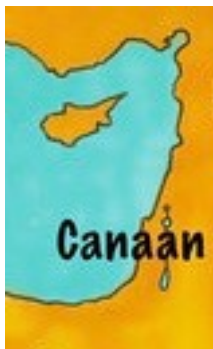
2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.



When God declares unto us that He will extend our days, He does specify to whom he is promising it. Just like in the text:

Psalms 91:1: He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

It is for those who trust in the Lord with all their heart who have poured all their love on the Lord. Then the Lord is moved to that individual and adds additional years to his life. To preach these blessings and privileges without specifying to whom they belong is like putting a letter in the Post Office without an address.



God Promised the land of Canaan (Israel) to the Children of Israel free, and they were to remain in the land predicated upon their good behavior. Their days would be shortened if they turned away from the Lord and went into sin. Therefore, long life in the land is conditional.

Paul repeats the same condition in:

Ephesians 6:3: That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

This is a further exposition of the Promise.

Deuteronomy 4:40: Thou shalt keep therefore His Statutes, and His Commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever.

Deuteronomy 5:16: Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath Comanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.



Deuteronomy 5:33: Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Deuteronomy 6:2: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all His Statutes and His Commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

Deuteronomy 11:9: And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 22:7: But thou shalt in any wise let the dam go, and take the young to thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days.

Deuteronomy 25:15-19:

¹⁵But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

¹⁶ For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

¹⁷ Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

¹⁸ How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

¹⁹ Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.



Deuteronomy 32:47: For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is

your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

1 Kings 3:11-14:

11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.



13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

14 And if thou wilt walk in My Ways, to keep My Statutes and My Commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

1 Kings 20:6: And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for Mine Own sake, and for My servant David's sake.

Psalm 61:6: Thou wilt prolong the king's life: and his years as many generations.

Proverbs 3:1-2:

1 My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My Commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Proverbs 3:16: Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

Proverbs 10:27: The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Children's obedience should follow this pattern. They should come when called, go where sent, do what is bidden, and refrain from what is forbidden. In other words, be in subjection to their parents and submit their will to their

parents' higher will. God promised this conditional blessing of long life as a divine gift to the obedient. Jesus supported this commandment in:

Matthew 15:4-6:

4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Psalms 90:10: The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.



Ecclesiastes 3:2: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

Ecclesiastes 7:17: Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

Ecclesiastes 9:12: For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

Genesis 47:29: And the time drew nigh that Israel [Jacob] must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:

Job 7:1: Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?

Psalms 31:15: My times are in Thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.



2 Timothy 4:6: For I [Paul] am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at

hand.

Psalms 55:23: But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in Thee.

Deuteronomy 4:26: I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.

Deuteronomy 30:18: I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

Isaiah 13:22: And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

The lifespan of the children of Israel was shortened back there in the wilderness, all because of their disobedience. Many died prematurely as did Dathan, Abiram, Korah, and their families as recorded in **Numbers 16**. Also 24,000 Israelites' lifespan was cut short by their sin of fornication.

Numbers 25:9: And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

In the **11th chapter of Numbers** we are told a great number of people had their lives shortened, all because of their complaining and bellyaching. Following this, others lost out over stuffing themselves with food and overeating. We are told God slew the fattest of them.

Psalms 78:31: The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel.

HOW LONG DO YOU WANT TO LIVE?

Do you want to live a long time? God promises us at least 70 years here on the earth. He wants us to live here longer.



However, the very basis of all these promises of long life provided prove the point conclusively. But one thing is sure, God will not give men and women

immortality in this life to spend their time living wickedly and disregarding Him. That is why he had to cut man's lifespan short, twice: from 900 years down to 120 years, and from 120 years down to 70 years.

To many of you, 70 years are not enough, and you want to live longer. You are some of those rugged souls and courageous ones. You have had some unpleasant memories, that is for sure. But on the other hand, they have not been a liability for you. You have a good forgetter, because the blessings of God and of this life have outweighed the misfortunes. Therefore you desire to live here a little longer. Most of us do realize that our life here on earth is temporary. The Bible describes it as, "*a vapor that appears for a season and vanishes*"

James 4:14: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Job 14:1-2:

1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.



One day Solomon got the blues and began to begrudge his departure from this life.

Ecclesiastes 8:8: There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

He knew that we are all going to take that long journey into eternity. He tried to set his house in order to take care of the unfinished business and, like us, he tried to become reconciled to those whom he had wronged. Then he thought of what he was leaving behind. He would have to leave his life's savings to his wife and children. Some of his family would misuse and misappropriated these possessions to their own ruin.

Ecclesiastes 2:15-16:

15 Then said I [Solomon] in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.

16 For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

All we can take with us when we leave here is our sins or our Saviour's Gift of Eternal Life. Leaving here with our sins will certainly land us in Hell — a place of outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Hell is not a nightmare by a disordered mind. It is the wages of sin.

Revelation 20:15: And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire.



There is another side of the coin. If you leave here with Christ in your heart, you leave with the Gift of Eternal Life to be forever with the Lord. David said:

Psalms 23:6: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We tragically rob ourselves in this life and hate to leave it behind. Our affections are not to be on the things on this earth but on things above where Christ sits on the right Hand of God.

God's Word says:

Matthew 6:19-21:

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

This eternal life which Jesus is offering to us was forfeited by a rich young man who came to Jesus seeking for it. All that Heaven offers he lost because he clung too tightly to this temporary life's possessions. How long do you want to live and enjoy life? Why not then choose to live forever? If we elect to live forever, we are choosing and asking for something more than this life can give.

John 8:51: Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death.

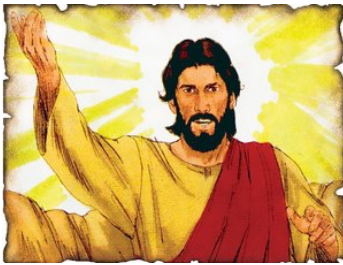
John 11:25-26:

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.

Why settle for less? This life that Jesus offers will be in a new world and will never end. This eternal life is found in Christ alone.

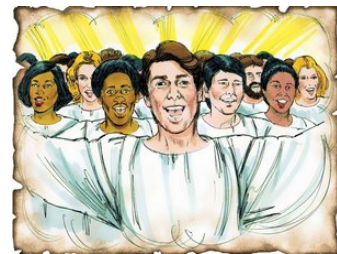


He is that Eternal Life, found alone in the Person of the Lord Jesus. Are you one of the blessed ones? Do you have this Eternal Life? It comes by receiving Jesus Christ to be your Saviour. None are excluded but those who exclude themselves. Eternal Life is the divine Gift which the Lord freely gives to all that repent of their sins and turn from their wicked ways. If you will call on the Name of

the Lord, you can be saved today.

The wages of sin is death or eternal separation from the Lord. Eternal Life is in Jesus. It comes by faith in His shed Blood and in the atonement He provided on Calvary when He paid our sin debt. This is the good news of the Gospel. This good news is written in the Bible for all of us.

Acts 4:12: Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other Name under Heaven given amongst men, whereby we must be saved.



Will you receive this life that can never end? Why should you plan to live in only this temporary existence when you can live forever with the Lord in Glory?

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