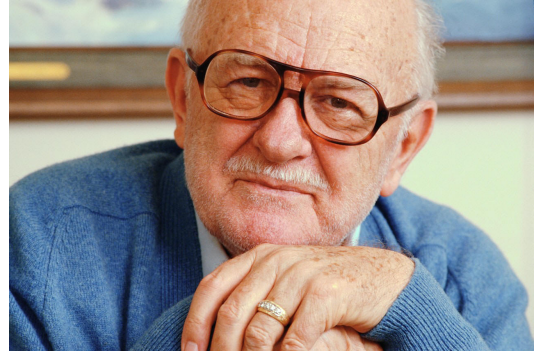


## Age

(see also Life, Maturity, Mortality, Old Age, Youth)

**“Old as the hills” is a colloquialism that actually comes from the Bible!**

- Job 15:7 HCSB Were you the first person ever born, or were you brought forth before the hills?



**We don't know why people lived so long thousands of years ago. Many scientists today know of no reason why we can't live the same spans. For some on reason the cells simply quit replicating. Perhaps genetic flaws have continued to accumulate which have decreased our life span. Perhaps a difference in the atmosphere or the magnetic shielding has made a difference. But the oldest person on record is a man by the name of Methuselah.**

- Genesis 5:27 HCSB So Methuselah's life lasted 969 years; then he died.

**One of the blessings that God may bestow is the blessing of having lived a long, good, full life.**

- Genesis 15:15 HCSB But you will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.

**However, righteousness does not guarantee long life. Hashem, for His own inscrutable reasons, often chooses to take some of the holiest people home to Himself. Perhaps, like Enoch they walked so closely with Him that He wanted them home early. Perhaps when He allows the wicked to live long lives, it is because He is patiently giving them as many opportunities as possible to change their ways.**

- Ecclesiastes 7:15 HCSB In my futile life I have seen everything: there is a righteous man who perishes in spite of his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who lives long in spite of his evil.

**One of the difficulties of growing old is that we begin to think of our death as more imminent. The truth of the matter is that anyone, regardless of age, can be just a few heartbeats away from death. When it's your time, no one can keep you alive. Until it's your time, no one can kill you.**

- Genesis 27:2 HCSB He said, "Look, I am old and do not know the day of my death.
- Psalm 88:3 HCSB For I have had enough troubles, and my life is near Sheol.

**Another great difficulty that comes with mortality is that we may run out of time before we get all we want done...well...done! Rest assured, God knows exactly the moment of our demise. If we will only obey Him, He will make sure that we do what we must on time.**

- Joshua 13:1 HCSB Joshua was now old, advanced in years, and the LORD said to him, "You have become old, advanced in years, but a great deal of the land remains to be possessed.

**Unfortunately, great age often brings with it a decline in the senses. Loss of vision, loss of taste and smell, loss of hearing – all these losses are strongly felt. We must be patient with ourselves in the hope that the Lord will soon be giving us new, better bodies.**

- 2 Samuel 19:35 HCSB I'm now 80 years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or drinks? Can I still hear the voice of male and female singers? Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?

**The elderly are sometimes mocked for their physical frailty and memory loss. However, those who mock the elderly forget the power and grace that the person once possessed. They forget too that one day they will be like this elderly person.**

- Job 30:1 HCSB But now they mock me, men younger than I am, whose fathers I would have refused to put with my sheep dogs.

**For those who obey the Lord and follow His ways, great wisdom comes with age.**

- Job 12:12 HCSB Wisdom is found with the elderly, and understanding comes with long life.
- Proverbs 16:31 HCSB Gray hair is a glorious crown; it is found in the way of righteousness.

**Unfortunately, not everyone learns the correct lessons. There are many elderly fools and others who, though young, are wise. This fact does not change how we should treat the elderly – it simply gives color to our decision making processes.**

- Job 32:9 HCSB It is not *only* the old who are wise or the elderly who understand how to judge.
- 1 Timothy 4:12 HCSB No one should despise your youth; instead, you should be an example to the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

**Those who have survived life's trials to attain a ripe old age should be shown deference.**

- Leviticus 19:32 HCSB "You are to rise in the presence of the elderly and honor the old. Fear your God; I am the LORD.
- 1 Timothy 5:1 HCSB Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,

**Eliphaz and Elihu failed to show the courtesy of respect to an elderly, suffering man that others did. The Lord rebuked them for it.**

- Job 29:7-11 HCSB (***Job of his former status***) When I went out to the city gate and took my seat in the town square, (8) the young men saw me and withdrew, while older men stood to their feet. (9) City officials stopped talking and covered their mouths with *their* hands. (10) The noblemen's voices were hushed, and their tongues stuck to the roof of their mouths. (11) When they heard me, they blessed me, and when they saw me, they spoke well of me.
- Job 15:7 HCSB (***Eliphaz to Job***) Were you the first person ever born, or were you brought forth before the hills?
- Job 30:1 HCSB (***Job of himself***) But now they mock me, men younger than I am, whose fathers I would have refused to put with my sheep dogs.

- Job 32:9 HCSB (***Elihu to Job***) It is not *only* the old who are wise or the elderly who understand how to judge.
- Job 42:7-8 HCSB (***God to Eliphaz***) After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has. (8) Now take seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. Then My servant Job will pray for you. I will surely accept his *prayer* and not deal with you as your folly deserves. For you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has."

**Even when we must correct the behavior of the elderly, it should be done with tremendous pains to remain respectful.**

- 1 Timothy 5:1 HCSB Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,

**For the tzaddikim, a long time serving the Lord brings deep understanding of His care and provision.**

- Psalm 37:25 HCSB I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous abandoned or his children begging bread.

**The Psalmist expressed his fears of being set aside in his old age. However, the beauty of serving an omnipotent God is that He never needed our skills or strengths in the first place. He simply loves to work with us – regardless of our abilities or lack thereof.**

- Psalm 71:9 HCSB Don't discard me in my old age: as my strength fails, do not abandon me.
- Isaiah 46:4 HCSB I will be the same until *your* old age, and I will bear *you* up when you turn gray. I have made *you*, and I will carry *you*; I will bear and save *you*.

**One of the principle roles that the elderly must take on is to make sure the next generation does not abandon Adonai Adonaim.**

- Psalm 71:18 HCSB Even when I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me. Then I will proclaim Your power to *another* generation, Your strength to all who are to come.

**Adonaists take great pains to not simply set aside their elderly. If we do put them in a nursing home it is because it is medically necessary and then we visit them on a regular basis, using the opportunity to teach our children how WE want to be treated when WE are old.**

- Psalm 71:9 HCSB Don't discard me in my old age: as my strength fails, do not abandon me.

**Consciously and deliberately try to suck your elders dry of whatever life lessons you may glean from them.**

- Proverbs 23:22 HCSB Listen to your father who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old.
- 1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, you younger men, be subject to the elders. And all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

**Our post-modern culture, with its sick fascination and worship of youth, needs to learn to appreciate the many gifts that the elderly possess. They need to be willing to learn the principles that supersede technological advances, and the philosophies that can only be learned with time and experience.**

- Proverbs 23:22 HCSB Listen to your father who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old.
- 1 Peter 5:5 HCSB Likewise, you younger men, be subject to the elders. And all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

**The elderly must rest in Hashem's eternal immutability. Though we may age and wither like grass in the sun, He will remain the same.**

- Isaiah 46:4 HCSB I will be the same until *your* old age, and I will bear *you* up when you turn gray. I have made *you*, and I will carry *you*; I will bear and save *you*.