

Why is it important to serve God?

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh” (Ecc. 12:1). This familiar verse encourages the youthful to obey. In his wisdom, Solomon knew that the longer the disobedient lived, the less likely it would be they will obey later in life. He cites several life events in defense of his statement. Consider the following:

1. Eyes become dim.

Verse 2 refers to the sun, the light, the moon and the stars as a way to say that as one ages, eyesight worsens. True, is it not?

2. Hands start shaking.

Verse 3 says the “keepers of the house” will tremble. As one gets older, it is indeed true that hands begin to shake.



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3. Teeth go away.

Verse 3 also says that the “grinders cease because they are few.” Just a fact of life, teeth go away and fall out.

4. Sleep becomes fleeting.

Verse 4 says that the aged “rise up at the voice of the bird.” Not because they want to, but because they cannot sleep.

5. Fears grow.

Verse 5 references that what once was not feared now.

6. Hair turns gray.

Verse 5 mentions that the almond tree, which is white, shall flourish. Sure enough, most aged folks have flourishing, gray hair.

7. Easy tasks erode.

Verse 5 also indicated that what was once considered easy is now difficult.

8. Separation takes place.

Verses 6-7 are clearly speaking about a separation of the body and spirit.

What is Solomon’s point?

As one gets older, disappointment comes as one realizes that he cannot do what he once could. Tiredness becomes the rule, as sleep becomes the exception. And the elderly know that it is only a matter of time before they pass on. One who is in such a condition is not a ripe candidate for becoming obedient to God. The solution: Be obedient to God while you are young and vibrant.

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