

Hope for My Whole Life

- Recently I've been thinking lot re age; I've had age on my mind.
 - Caroling, member ~102. Adult woman when WW2 started! Think all things seen since 1918.
 - Also sang for 90 yr old: "Can't believe I'm so old; never thought of myself as old."
 - This fall/wintr, wife/I, bdays. Each one notch closer 40; closer than 30. Socks. 26. New socks.
 - This spring, 15th wed ann. 15! Feels ystrdy. Look pics. Babies! Children getting married!
 - If I close eyes, put self back in 6th grade, doesn't seem that long ago. Remem well.
 - Talking college kids. Thought: remem college well. But been awhile.
 - I've got kids in 6th, 4th, 1st gr. Remem day born; held when minutes old.
 - Wife watches baby. I hold, think: I used be this tiny, all! Maybe smdy this baby 102. Age.
- You ever have age on mind? Ever think re these things? Ever look in mirror: "Woah, who's old lady/guy? I can't believe I'm that old!" Creeps up on you!
 - Yet, when you close eyes, able put self back in time: to when in gr school, to wedding day, to day held newborn baby? Maybe doesn't feel like that long ago!
 - Once, Cat class age: 1900s. You're right!
 - But srsly, I think we're all so busy/doing, that life suddenly catches up w/us, and we really start think re age. Recently I've had age on mind.
- I think psalmist here has age on his mind, as well.
 - Ps 71 seems writtn by eldrly person. No heading, so not sure if David author; very well might.
 - If David is writing in his old age, then these words: window into hrt/mind of elderly belvr.
 - **Vs. 9; 18a.** I've talked lot elderly who feel forsaken, no one remems/calls/cares re them. "My kids/grands so busy. Where I live so quiet." Feel all alone, lonely. Smtms even feel like God's abndnd them. Think what covid's done to Xians in nursing homes; some can't even leave room. Prs/fam aren't even allowed in building to visit. Best can do is make phone calls. They feel imprsnd, lonely, forsaken. That's how David's feeling here: he has age on mind.
 - Yet in his quiet solitude, muses back upon youth; thinks re days long past. **Vs. 5-6; 17.** He's looking back on life, thinking all ways God's blessed him, ever since baby – David, belvr since little baby. In NT, Paul to Tim: "**From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures**" (**2 Tim 3:15**). I don't know if that's true of you/not. It is of me; I've been Xian since baptized as baby. But no matter how long you've been Xian, you can look back on life, see many ways God's blessed you, many exprncs given you to strngthn your faith, draw closer to him.
- And through it all, from childhood to adulthood, you've had one unchnng constant in your life: **vs. 1-3, 5a.** The constant in David's life, and yours: Lord. He's your rock, fortress, hope. When you have Lord, you have hope: whether baby, child, teen, 20smthng, mid-age adult, or senior citizen – when have Lord, have hope – hope for your whole life.
- I want tell you smtng kinda technical, re (of all things) Heb poetry. In English, we like our poetry to rhyme. Sunday, PDW, poem that ryhmes: Humpty Dumpty, wall/fall – rhymes. Heb poetry doesn't really rhyme. But in Heb poetry, main point/focus of poem/psalm placed right in middle, in very center. So if poem has 5 lines, line #3 is theme; has 2 above/below; most imp phrase of poem. Ps 71 does this; puts most imp phrase in very center. Here it is: **vs. 14a.** That's theme of entire psalm, written by elderly belvr, with age on mind, as recounting his youth and lifetime of blessings. **Vs. 14a.** So if there's anything elderly David wants you learn from & take away from this psalm, it's simply this: you always have hope – hope for your whole life.

- And what is hope? Xian hope: confidence in promss God makes for your future. And you can be certain re those promss, bec God always keeps promss. Maybe you can think time smone broke proms made to you. God never will. He's always kept promss in past. He sent us J, born at Xmas, to be one of us / live among us, so could suff/die on cross to take away all our sins, and rise from dead to open for us a home in hvn. That's what God has done for us in past, which is why we can trust what he promss for our future. That's Xian hope. Lot deeper than just: hope get this for Xmas; hope 2021 will be better than this year; hope virus goes away soon. God hasn't promsd that. But here's what does promise:
 - You are his beloved child;
 - Xp has given his life, and come back to life, for you;
 - All your sins/mistakes forgiven, forever;
 - Always be with you, will never forsake you, no matter how old you are, or how lonely feel;
 - You have home w/him in hvn.
- That is Xian hope. **Vs. 14a** – hope for my whole life.
- If you're elderly person, you have hope. **Vs. 18**. If elderly, you can: use your life exprncs to share Gos w/next genrtn; tell young what God's done for you; give others hope.
- And if you're younger Xian, you too have hope. **Vs. 17**. If younger, you have countless opptnts serve Lord by serving others in Xian love. You can: let your light shine – and, God willing, for many years to come; give others hope.
- And whether young/old, we all have this hope: **vs. 20**. Someday we all are going die. But on last day, at res, God will raise us all from dead. He will **vs. 20b**. That's res! And with body/soul reunited at res, we will live w/God forever in glory of hvn. That's a prom; that's our sure and certain hope.
- Maybe you don't think re age a lot. Maybe you do. Lately I've had age on my mind. And I think the psalmist here does, too. But remem, no matter what age is, whether young/old/smwyr in between: **vs. 14a**. I have Lord; so I have hope – hope for my whole life.

Psalm 71

¹ In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. ² In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me. ³ Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

⁵ For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. ⁶ From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.

⁹ Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone.

^{14a} As for me, I will always have hope.

¹⁷ Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. ¹⁸ Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

²⁰ Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.