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Psalm 90:10-12

10. “As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away.
11. Who understands the power of Your anger and Your fury, according to the fear that is due You?
12. So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.”

In these verses we find a statement concerning the average life-span of mankind. Verse 10 states that the life span of man is between 70 and 80 years in this body of flesh. This is approximately the life span of people in our country today. What is interesting is the fact that this is one of the oldest psalms; being written by Moses about 1500 BC--that's 3500 years ago.

I was just reading a secular article recently that predicted with the current advances in medicine, genetics, and organ transplants--the life span of men could go past 100 years in the near future. Well, regardless what the experts in the world say, I'll bank on the Word of God and plan for about 75 years here on earth.

In giving us the average life-span for people in these

last days, the inspired writer than asks God, “So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.” In other words--we need to recognize the fact that we have only about 75 years here, and so should order our lives accordingly. God wants us to know how long we can expect to live, so we can make the most of our time on earth. A parallel scripture in the New Testament advises, “Be careful how you walk, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”

Ephesians 4:15-16

Myself, I've plotted my life's time in a couple different ways. The broadest division is by 25-year blocks. The first 25 years are for growing up, figuring out what life is all about, finding God, and settling in to get something accomplished. The second 25 years is for raising a family and building a solid financial foundation for the last 25 years. Then the last 25 years is for ministering for the Lord--building permanent, eternal dwellings. And then get out of here in a blaze of glory between 75 and 80.

Now like all plans, things never work out completely as anticipated. For example, when I was in my early 20's and still single, I planned on building a wood-working whop and retiring at 45. After marrying and having kids I moved that back to 55. By my mid-40's I pinpointed age 53 as the target for leaving my secular job to serve the Lord. In God's providence He unhooked me at 47 for His

full time service. Plans never turn out exactly as we anticipate, but by having a general plan for our life we have direction and bench-marks to tell us how we are doing. And the Lord promises to fill in the details.

The other way I've plotted my time here on earth is by decades. The first 10 years are for parental moulding and training. The teen years are the transition period from childhood to adult responsibilities. Hold on for the blast off!

The 20's set the general course of our lives before God. Personally, I finished my college, married a wonderful woman God prepared for me, found salvation in Christ Jesus, and started a family.

The 30's should be the busiest, most productive decade of one's life. A person still has the strength of youth, and has accumulated years of practical life experience to draw upon. Raising our children in their primary years was the most important task at hand for my wife and I.

During the 40's one's stamina begins to wane and it becomes necessary to work smarter rather than harder. As our children left our primary care in our home, we turned our attention to financial freedom for ministry in the Lord's kingdom.

Having just turned 50 this past May, my plan for the next 10 years is to run hard for my Lord and His church, while my body is still capable. Also this should be a time

of finalizing financial projects and aquazitions for the years when my body limits my activities and my children start taking over my resources and care.

The 60's should be the crowning glory of ministry and passing on the abundant life that Jesus has given from a position of practical experience and proven accomplishment. I pray I am green, full of sap, and bearing fruit, as the psalmist says of his old age in Psalm

In the decade of my 70's I plan on being a diligent prayer warrior--lifting up the young men and women serving Jesus with the strength of their youth. Oh those will be grand days, rocking on my front porch--hands outstretched in petition for the saints in spiritual battle like Moses of old on and intermittently receiving updates from the field on my cell phone.

And then move on to glory.

How about you? Do you have a life plan? Have you counted your days so as to present a heart of wisdom to the Lord, and a life well lived?