

JOB SERIES FIFTEEN
HOW TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER (HERE)AFTER
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JOB 42:10-17; JOB 23:10; JOB 16:1-5; JOB 2:3,9; JOB 6:29; GENESIS 15:15; 25:8; JOB 1:5;
HEBREWS 12:4-12
(SERMON 1599)

We were fascinated from childhood by the stories that seemed larger than life. They all began with the same four words: “Once upon a time...” The time really didn’t matter. Any time would do because they all ended with the same six words, “...and they lived happily ever after.” Oh, that that were true.

The truth is that no one really lives happily ever after—even in Bible stories. But we can live fulfilled and satisfied and contented ever after. Job died after living a rich and full life. So can we.

The Patriarchal Formula, “old and full of years,” is attainable for most all of us. The formula refers both to long life and a fulfilled life. Read Genesis 15:15; and 25:8. I’d like to talk today about How to Live Happily Ever (Here)After. Or, perhaps I might say it better, How To Live A Satisfied And Fulfilled Life.

No matter where we are in the STAGES OF LIFE from childhood to old age, it is never too late to begin to live for a rich, fulfilled and satisfied life.

Job 23:10 gives a helpful perspective throughout the stages of life. In the midst of his sufferings Job proclaimed: “But He knows the way I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.” And so he did.

Job makes three statements of faith here:

1. I know that God knows my situation;
2. I believe it is God who is testing me;
3. I believe that after the trials have ended I’ll emerge a blessed and better man.

JOB RECEIVED FOUR GOLD-LIKE BLESSINGS FROM THE HAND OF GOD.

Take hope in your situation. Your blessings might be different because your trials are different. The blessings that come to you will not necessarily be the same as Job’s. But take heart, they will come your way.

1. Job’s Possessions Are Doubled (Job 42:10, 12).

On occasion the Lord chooses to bless certain individuals with more than is enough. Let it be. Let it be. Guard yourself from envy.

God’s children who are blessed with more than enough are often the first to say that it all came from His grace.

If you are not financially blessed like some others, applaud their good fortune rather than resent it.

2. His Relatives And Friends Supported Him (Job 42:11).

They comforted and consoled him. These are the kind of stories that make family relationships deeper and more meaningful.

In a fast-paced world like ours it’s easy to lose our roots and live just for ourselves. It doesn’t have to be that way.

3. Job's Children Are All Replaced (Job 42:13-15).

Mr. and Mrs. Job enjoyed the blessings of parenting with the wisdom of grandparents. The children were raised with a nurtured beauty of character and person. They gained knowledge from wise parents that were far beyond their years.

4. Job Received The Patriarchal Blessing For A Long And Satisfying Life (Job 42:16-17).

Job did not dying a struggling, broken, cranky old codger who every one tried to avoid. He enjoyed his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren. He relived much of life and passed on so much of what he has learned.

Jewish proverb: "For the ignorant old age is as winter. For the learned it is a harvest."

Charles Swindoll has five tips for Seniors on How to Stay Young.

1. Your mind isn't old; keep developing it.
2. Your humor isn't over; keep enjoying it.
3. Your strength isn't gone; keep using it.
4. Your opportunities haven't vanished; keep pursuing them.
5. Your God is not dead; keep serving and seeking Him.

HOW CAN WE LIVE OUT THE PATRIARCHAL FORMULA FOR A LONG AND FULFILLED LIFE?

1. Find Forgiveness And A Right Standing With God At The Foot Of The Cross (See Job 1:5; and 42:8-9).

2. Stay Committed To God And To Your Relationship With Him At Any Price (See Job 1:11; 23:11-12; and Hebrews 12:4-12).

3. Process Properly The Hurts And Pains Of Life (Job 16:1-5; and 42:11).

4. Maintain Your Integrity (Job 2:3,9; and 6:29).