

Those Were the Days!

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King Solomon, who was the wisest man on the planet in his day, offers us some practical insight on how to view life. He says in Ecclesiastes 7:10, “Don’t long for ‘the good old days,’ for you don’t know whether they were any better than today.” (NLT)

Toward the end of every year, our minds seem to automatically think back on the way things were. We celebrate the good experiences and regret the bad ones. Some wish they could go back and fix their mistakes, reverse their sinful behavior and avoid misfortune all together. This is a fruitless exercise unless we channel our regrets into positive action in the present.

Perhaps you are mindful of opportunities that you have missed or mistakes that you have made. Regrets sting. But listen to **Ecclesiastes 7:10** again:

“Do not say, ‘Why were the former days better than these?’ For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.” (NKJV) So many people say, “My, how time flies! I wish I could do this year over! I would love to fix this or that.” Yet, if you seriously think about this option, you probably do not really mean it. No doubt, if you have gained wisdom after evaluating the bad choices of the past, you would likely do things differently, but to harbor fantasies about redoing years is a fruitless venture.

Would you really like to relive the storms of the past? Remember that when you were in the midst of them, you were wishing for days even further back in the past. The blessing is that you have outlived the challenges of this year and are prepared for a new one, as you are now seasoned with the wisdom of experience.

Looking behind is a problem for many of us. Either our past sins will condemn us, or the good things we have done will be a source of pride. Our only option, therefore, is to do as the apostle Paul did:

“... I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.” (Philippians 3:14 NLT)

Where you are in life right now is where God will meet you to bring you to your destiny and purpose. This being so, we must be thankful that our lives have brought us to this time and place. We must learn to look back, not longingly, but in order to see the hand of God and find wisdom and encouragement.

God made a promise to Israel over which we all should rejoice, because it is equally true for us. Hear these words from Jeremiah 29:11-

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

*By the way...**THESE ARE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!***