

## Teach us to Number our Days

*We began our gathering with the song, "We Sing for Joy in Your Presence."*

After the flood a man's lifetime was limited to one hundred and twenty years for people of the nations, but for rebellious Israel in the wilderness, only seventy, or eighty years (Ps 90:7-10). In Ps 90:12 Moshe prayed, "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

This is something we have to gain. It is not anything that we start out with. Don't take it for granted. Teach us to number our days that we might use our time wisely, doing the works prepared for us. Squandering our days is not the beginning of wisdom, but the end of it (Pr 1:7). One living as a fool takes no thought of his day. We must teach our children to number their days, taking advantage of each moment of their lives. Our lives are like a pen. How many pens have I thrown away? There is just so much ink in each one. The life of the pen is in the ink, and like us, its days are numbered. Don't waste ink. Don't waste one day of your life in serving our Master where He is (Jn 12:26). Don't waste ink. How do you waste ink? By writing things that don't matter. The life is in the ink, so to speak. Teach us to number our days (Eph 2:10; Isa 40:6-8; Song 2:12). Don't waste ink, or one day of your life in serving our Master where He is.

### Who We Are

1 Pet 2:9 tells us who we are. If we want to say who we are, this is who we are. We are the royal priesthood of the holy nation. That is who we are. It is a nation that Mt 21:43 says will be given the Kingdom, but only in this age, not eternally. We will bear the fruit of the kingdom for them, the natural seed of Abraham, in this age (Acts 26:6-8; Rom 11:15; Isa 49:6,8; Gen 14:18; 18:19). Don't get what we say mixed up with "Replacement Theology," as if the spiritual Israel replaces natural Israel eternally. We are "special agents" in this age to bring about in the next age what our Father promised

Abraham. We are here to do what our Father said about making the Jews jealous (Rom 11:11).

1 Pet 2:9 — We are a chosen race. We are no longer Châm, Shem, and Yapheth. There is nothing you can say about Shem, Châm, or Yapheth that we can take identity with any more. We are a royal priesthood, replacing old Israel in this age. We are a chosen race. We are a royal priesthood. If you don't know what a priesthood is, look it up. Priests mediate on behalf of others with our Master Yahshua. They pray for government in order that we could live a peaceful, quiet life (1 Tim 2:1-2). There is no other way we could exist except that our Father raises up servants in the government. 1 Pet 2:9 tells us who we are:

- 1) A chosen race
- 2) A royal priesthood.
- 3) A holy nation
- 4) His possession, His own special people.

We were put in place of old Israel – as special agents – in order to keep our Father from having to walk through the split animals himself, as Jer 34:18 says He would, for He is righteous.

In order for us to be those four titles we are going to have to be people of high honor. I was looking up that word, *honor*, in Jn 12:26, which is where it speaks of serving Him. The people whom these four things in 1 Pet 2:9 describe will be held in high honor. Jn 10:14 – “*I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me.*” His sheep know His voice. The world doesn't know us now, just as it didn't know our Master then. Here we are: a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and His own special people, all growing up together all over the earth.

## **Yahshua did not Suffer in Vain**

The last thing they did to Him was to pierce His side with a spear, and from His side came His wife. We're His offspring, as Isa 53:10-11 says, and He will see the fruit that will satisfy Him for the labor of His soul. At the creation our Father was satisfied with His labor. He will be satisfied again with His labor in us. His soul went into death as a guilt offering. We are His offspring, having come forth from His side, just as Eve came forth from Adam's side. We are bearing the fruit that He died for. He didn't suffer in vain. He didn't suffer for nothing.

So why shouldn't we spend all of our days living for Him? Why shouldn't we do everything we do for Him? For as much as Christianity knows, all that this means is being a good worker in the marketplace. They do nothing for Him.

"Teach us to number our days." How is He going to teach us? Maybe Moses saw in Israel how they weren't wise. One living as a fool takes no thought of his days.

Mevaser – When Yoneq was speaking, I thought, "What would I regret were I to look back at my life?" It seems like what hurts the most is our failure to love. I could have loved, but I didn't love. In the world I wasted my words. I wasted my strength upon myself. My daughter, Rachel, was only three years old then. I had been on my way to visit her and ended up in the hospital. I was twenty-five years old and I woke up and the doctor told me I had almost died. Up until that time, I had pursued a goal of being a millionaire by the time I was thirty years old. What if they had gone to my daughter and said, "The bad news is that your father is dead, and the good news is that he left you a million dollars." (1 Tim 6:9)

This changed my life. I decided I would love her and anyone else in my life. For them to know that I loved them was of far surpassing value to anything else I could do. Somehow, Paul understood that in 1 Cor 13, "If I speak with the tongues of men or angels, but have not love, it matters nothing." The things I have heard tonight make me want to pour out my strength and words and heart to love, while I have opportunity.

### **Age-lasting life or Age-lasting Regret**

Just think of the regret spoken of in Dan 12:2. It is right after Dan 12:1, where it speaks of the prince of His people, Michael, in the last days, standing watch over “the sons of your people.” I assume He is talking about us, for we want to be His people, his holy priesthood, his holy nation in the last days. There is a horrible time coming. It will be like no other time in history. You can’t even conceive what it will be like. There will be famine, earthquake, storm, drought, no pure water, and all kinds of things. And then there is the resurrection for our Father’s people. Dan 12:2-3 — There are some who are resurrected to age-lasting life and others to age-lasting contempt.

The time when they could have contempt for themselves in the Body, over their sins and wrong ways, and change, is over. Too late, your life is over, nothing but regret until the next age. Those who were everything that our Father wanted them to be will have a resurrection of life. Dan 12:3 – That is not just evangelism, leading the many to righteous from the world, it is also your brother and sisters.

There are two categories in the resurrection of Dan 12 — one to life and one to death. For us it is the second death for believers. Verse 10 speaks, of course, about the foolish and the wise. The wise will understand and the foolish won’t. We started out singing, “We sing for joy in Your presence.” But the fool doesn’t sing with all of his heart to our Master who is in our presence. Maybe he is just thinking about making a nice harmony so that someone will notice him.

The wise will understand and the foolish won’t. Our Master probably got that about the wise and the foolish from Dan 12. He had to learn things too. He had to listen to His Father. He had to speak what our Father wanted to communicate to Him.

We will have nothing but regret if we don’t make the most of our time. Don’t be writing vain things. You only have so much ink. Make it count.

Soreph Gamaliel — We have one chance to be the best disciple, the best parent, and the best husband or wife we could be. One day our chance will

be over. This life is our one chance. My prayer is that our Father would help me as I turn my heart to my wife, my children, and my friends.

Ps 90:12 — *So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.* This can only be for the purpose of entering the Kingdom of God. It's not talking about being saved, but the wisdom to rule and reign in the coming Kingdom. We won't rule if we don't have it and death awaits us all. Hopefully we will live to see Yahshua return – and not shrink back when He does. I am thankful to be alive, able to use my one chance wisely.

Jesse — If we really saw that our Father was writing a book or message to the whole world, and we were His pen and we only had so much ink, then we wouldn't waste it. I can either waste my days squandering them on useless things, or I can spend every bit of time I have doing our Father's will.

If we don't realize how much our Father needs us, He has no way to write. We have such a great calling, not just all human beings, but us, to bring about the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham. People would get upset with us saying that He would have to walk through the animals if that didn't happen, but it is a self-cursing oath.

What causes us to waste our life, to squander our ink, is not knowing how much our Father needs us. When I am distracted, I am not really thinking that our Father needs me to be focused right *now*. If we were focused we wouldn't waste any time, we wouldn't waste any ink. I hate wasting time. I hate that. I hate all the distractions from the evil one – accusations, comments, etc.

Keli — The reality of it is that we are His pens, as 2 Cor 3:2-3 says. We are to be His witness on the earth. In Ps 90:16-17 it says, *“Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the Sovereign our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.”*

You can see what He has set for us to do. If His work never appears to us, if it never dawns on us what His work is (for He can't do it without us), then it will never get done. His book will never get written.

But if it does, then His glory will be upon us. If we do His will, His glory will be upon us, just as our Master prayed. Then the beauty, greatness, and glory of our Father will be upon us. It is amazing how it says that in the same place (Ps 90:16-17).

Yedidiah ben Soreph Gamaliel — What we are hearing tonight makes me think about where Paul said, “I have fought the good fight, I have kept the

faith.” At the end of his life Paul had confidence that he had spent his life doing what he was created for.

Especially today, more and more, as values are being degraded, people devote most of their life to killing time. They are out of reality, keeping their mind occupied. They are living for the moment and they want pleasure. They have no reason to be living. We have a purpose. We above all people should use our lives for what they were created for. The worst thing would be to live our whole lives in the Body of Messiah and not use them to bring about His kingdom.

Yedydyah — Our Father has so much mercy on us. There is a pulse to the Body. We can be taught and trained and continue to learn. If we stopped doing this, the gatherings would grow tiresome. They would become a drudgery that we would just dread going to. So I am thankful we can fall in love with our Master instead, and wait eagerly to hear His voice speak to us. How many times do we have to hear about being wise?

He wants to stir us up and not be content while the house of God lies desolate. We can't be distracted by things like cell phones or computers. I am so thankful that our Father is teaching us His ways; that He has brought us to this place.

Asher — Our Father is going to do a quick and thorough work in the end times. If we are not devoted to His word and knowing it and loving it, then His will cannot come about. It will drag out and have to be given to another people. But it can't go on any longer as it is now. Someone has to do it. I want to be one who does my part – gives myself – so that He can do His quick and thorough work. Serving my brothers is the same thing as serving my Master. It doesn't matter what they tell me to do. I want to be faithful. It really encouraged me what I heard today.

Natan — When Yoneq was talking about age-lasting life or age-lasting contempt I thought of a dream I had last night. I will never forget it. It was basically a dream about death. It wasn't me; it was a very good friend, although I don't remember who it was, exactly. Someone said, “He's dying.”

I have never seen someone die, and somehow thought I could stop it. They said, “It is four more minutes until he dies,” and I started screaming. It was right down to the last minute and I was looking at the man saying, “Don't go. Don't die.” Then he breathed his last.

It was horrifying. It deeply impressed me. I have never had anything like that happen. I am just thankful, for I want to have the proper fear.

How am I walking? I just want to walk in a way that I care about His will being done on the earth. There are so many distractions that can come.

Eph 2:10 — I have heard this verse so many times, but tonight it stood out to me. If we walk in the works prepared for us we can die in peace. We were created in Messiah for good works and that is what I want to do. I want to be able to say what Paul did.

### **Declaring His Excellencies**

ha-êmeq — I saw when Yoneq was reading those four things from 1 Pet 2:9 — kingdom of priests, holy nation, and chosen race, that my Bible goes on to say, “This is so that you can show others the goodness of God.” They were all to show the goodness of our Father. That is so good. So, how would you show that He is good? By everything going right for us? They could drive down the driveway and say, “That is a nice house, a nice avocado farm. God must be with you.” Then what about the hard times? What about the small things? How often do you tell people, Shear Yashub, that He is so wonderful?

How often do we declare His excellencies, how wonderful He is? How often do we tell others how grateful we are? How many things could we be declaring? We have to see His hand at work in our lives, even in all the small details of our life.

Consider that song we began our gathering with, “I sing for joy in Your presence...” Are we filled with joy? I was just full of joy when we sang it. Weren’t you, Shemuel? We are full of joy in His presence. When Yoneq said that, I said, “I want to be like that. I want our people to be like that.”

When you were speaking of that pen, and of running out of ink, it reminded me of what it says about the last days, that men will be dissipated. William Tyndale had a short life. He didn’t have very much ink in his pen. (He was forty-two when he died.) He used his ink for the right thing. I don’t want to fall into dissipation. I don’t want to fall into worry about making a living. We do have to go shopping to meet people’s needs, but we can’t let it dissipate us. Then we are not able to focus and not able to write the right things.

We have to declare His excellency. Nogah is trying to write with her pen right now. Something good has got to come out of that pen. Something good has to come out of us, and not evil. I want what our Father wants to come out of us: Bekor and Natan and everyone.

When we are in Home Depot, our purpose is to declare the excellencies of God, even to the clerk. I want to take that dream of Natan's as from our Father. So, what are we going to say when we only have four minutes left to live? Not much. But right now we have more than four minutes. Let's say it right now. Let's not dissipate. I want us to be those four things from 1 Pet 2:9 so that we can do what we are supposed to do for our Father.

If we can't declare His excellencies it could mean our ink is kind of dry inside. When you come into the King's presence you declare Him, "Your excellency." The people we live among see something, but they don't recognize yet that we are the Sons of God. They will, though, for "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the Sons of God." (Mt 5:9)

Unless we are one with one another we haven't passed out of death and into life. We are one through the greatest thing — love. If we are not one with one another, we have not yet passed out of death and into life.