

The Glory of the Gray-Haired God

Proverbs 16:31 (ESV)

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

Leviticus 19:32 (ESV)

You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

Proverbs 20:29 (ESV)

The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.

Revelation 1:12-14 (ESV)

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire.

Our fascination with the physical strength associated with youth is likely a result of our dissatisfaction with the wisdom associated with age.

Ecclesiastes 9:13-18 (ESV)

I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard. The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Our foolish hearts tend to trust physical power more than prayer, muscles more than memory verses, and guns more than God.

God is the God of Powerful Wisdom

Jeremiah 51:15 (ESV)

It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

God is the God of Just Wisdom

Daniel 7:9-10 (ESV)

As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

God is the God of Glorious Wisdom

Romans 11:33-36 (ESV)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

How can we have wisdom?

Book Wisdom

Psalms 90:10-12 (ESV)

The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Buy Wisdom

Proverbs 23:22-23 (ESV)

Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it; by wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

Befriend Wisdom

Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Beg for Wisdom

James 1:5-8 (ESV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Boast in the Real Wisdom

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (ESV)

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."