



Introduction

Prologue

One of the areas of Christianity where presbyters and scholars exhibit the greatest uncertainty, is the topic of biblical age groups. I do not intend to answer all the questions related to this, simply based on the fact that the Bible is not always clear regarding the meaning of certain ages. However, I will point out some - partly very important and not widely recognised- concepts, such as the Age of (Spiritual) Accountability.

It is very difficult for us to discuss the most fundamental concepts of Christianity, especially Salvation, if we have not understood the Age of Accountability, which literally constitutes the difference between Eternal Life or Gehenna up to that specific age.

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Comment	Scripture
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0 Embryo

<p>The unborn, though enclosed in the womb of his mother, is already a child of THEOS.</p>	<p>So THEOS created humankind in His image, in the likeness of THEOS He created him, male and female He created them.</p> <p>And if men fight and they injure a pregnant woman, and her children go out [...] he will surely be fined as the woman's husband demands concerning him and as the judges determine.</p> <p>Did not He who made me in the womb make them? And did not one fashion us in the womb?</p> <p>Indeed you created my inward parts; you wove me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works, and my soul knows it well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was created secretly, and intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my embryo, and in your book they all were written - days fashioned for me when there was not one of them.</p> <p>... Woe to the one who says to a father, "What you are begetting?" or to a woman, "With what are you in labor?" "Thus says KYRIOS, the HOLY ONE of Israel, and its maker: "Ask me of the things to come about my children, and you command me about the work of my hands."</p> <p>"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you came out from the womb I consecrated you; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."</p> <p>And it happened that when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby in her womb leaped and Elizabeth was filled with the HOLY SPIRIT. And she cried out with a loud shout and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"</p>
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<p>This rather not important age stands for the time when male children were considered fit to come into the temple and to become acquainted with its procedures.</p> <p>It is no probably not a coincidence that this age closely follows the age when children walk independently and with great security.</p>	<p>And at his hand were Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah in the cities of the priests and entrusted to give to their brothers by working groups, according to the eldest to the youngest, besides their enrollment by genealogy, to males from three years old and upward, to all who came into the house of KYRIOS, as each day required for their service in their posts according to their working groups.</p>
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12

<p>The next step in the life of a believer is the age of 12 years, when a child should actively visit and serve at a church, in the same way IESOUS independently visited the Temple and participated in the Holy Feasts. It is possibly also the age when fasting can be introduced to the child, and a suggested age when a child is mature enough to be baptized.</p> <p>Now IESOUS actively visited the Temple, where He was once dedicated at the age of 40 days. The age of 12 years is also the age of His first recorded words.</p> <p>On the other hand, 12 still means a age when a person is considered a (young) boy or a girl.</p>	<p>And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the feast.</p> <p>And He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that it was necessary for me to be in the house of my FATHER?"</p> <p>Taking her by the hand He said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.</p>
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16-17

<p>This age range is not significant, but it is included here in order to underline the fact that people under the age of 20 years are biblically considered as 'young' and 'youthful'. There are no biblical classifications / markers of the ages 18 and 19.</p> <p>Josiah was still considered a youth / boy at the age of 16.</p> <p>G3808; ΠΑΙΔΑΡΙΟΝ, paidarion; Neuter of a presumed derivative of pais; a little boy -- child, lad.</p> <p>Joseph was at the age of 17 considered as 'young', a translation of the Greek word NEOC:</p> <p>G3501; NEOC, neos; A primary word, including the comparative (second form); "new", that is, (of persons) youthful, or (of things) fresh; figuratively regenerate: - new, young.</p>	<p>Josias was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of KYRIOS, and walked in the ways of his father David, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left. And in the eighth year of his reign, and he being yet a youth [G3808 ΠΑΙΔΑΡΙΟΝ, paidarion], he began to seek KYRIOS the THEOS of his father David ...</p> <p>And Joseph was seventeen years old, feeding the sheep of his father with his brethren, being young; with the sons of Balla, and with the sons of Zelpha, the wives of his father; and Joseph brought to Israel their father their evil reproach.</p>
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Comment	Scripture	
<p>20</p> <p>The most important age in the life of a human is the Age of Accountability of 20 years, when a person is not saved anymore by default, but is responsible for his or her own salvation. What seems to be a new concept, is easily derived from the following Bible passages and from the importance of the number 20, which is a number that stands for a complete or perfect waiting period. The term 'twenty years old' is found 26 (32) times in the Bible (highly overproportional compared to other ages; only the numbers of 1 / 2 / 3 / 7 years appear more often; see also the addendum with a detailed analysis), clearly underlining the importance of this age.</p> <p>Age of manhood / womanhood / maturity. Children, who will have died before the age of 20 will experience salvation, because they could not yet know 'good or bad'.</p> <p>If THEOS excluded in -1446 BC children under the age of 20 from condemnation, then He will most certainly do so after the First Coming of IESOUS CHRISTOS.</p> <p>It would be abstruse to assume the contrary – to assume that innocent children would go into condemnation.</p>	<p>... 'When a man makes a vow according to your proper value of persons [...] [20-59] for a male from twenty years of age up to sixty years of age [...] [5-19] And if from five years of age up to twenty years of age [...] [0-5] And if from a month of age up to five years of age [...] [60+] And if from sixty years of age and above [...]</p>	<p>Lev 27:1-7</p>
	<p>... in this desert your corpses will fall, and all your counted ones, according to all your number, from twenty years old and above who grumbled against me.</p>	<p>Num 14:29</p>
	<p>[parallel passage to Num 14:29] And your little children, who you thought shall become plunder, and your sons, who do not today know good or bad, shall themselves go there [to the Promised Land; allusion to our Promised Land = Eternity], and I will give it to them, and they shall take possession of it.</p>	<p>Deu 1:39</p>
	Affirmation & Application Outside the Mosaic Laws	
	<p>... Look! the virgin is with child and she is about to give birth to a son, and she shall call his name "THEOS with us.' He shall eat curds and honey until he knows to reject the evil and to choose the good. For before the boy knows to reject the evil and to choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be abandoned.</p>	<p>Isa 7:14-16</p>
	<p>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred and twenty thousand people [=children are meant here, one translation even translates it with 'children'; the estimated total population of Niniveh was 600.000 people] who do not know right from left [=innocent children], plus many animals?" [see also Ecc 10:2 The heart of the wise inclines to his right, but the heart of the fool inclines to his left; see also Mat 25:31-34 "... the SON of Man ... will place the sheep on His right and the goats on the left. Then the KING will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my FATHER. Inherit the Kingdom ... on His left, 'Depart from me ..."].</p>	<p>Jon 4:11</p> <p>... compare also Bible Commentaries affirming those people to be children!</p>
	Army	
<p>The mandatory enlistment in the ancient Israelite army started only with the age 20, in order to protect from possible death those who would only in a few years multiply their families and provide the next generation(s).</p>	<p>"Take a census of the entire community of the Israelites [...] every male individually from twenty years old and above, everyone in Israel who is able to go to war.</p>	<p>Num 1:3 Num 1:20 Num 26:2</p>
	<p>And David did not take a census of those twenty years old or under because KYRIOS promised to make Israel more numerous than the stars of Heaven.</p>	<p>1Chr 27:23</p>
	<p>And Amasias assembled the house of Juda, and appointed them according to the houses of their families for captains of thousands and captains of hundreds in all Juda and Jerusalem: and he numbered them from twenty years old and upwards, and found them three hundred thousand able to go out to war, holding spear and shield.</p>	<p>2Chr 25:5</p>
	Census	
<p>The minimum age for inclusion in a census.</p>	<p>... and they summoned the entire community on the first day of the second month. And they registered themselves among their clans according to their families, according to the number of names from those twenty years old and above individually ...</p>	<p>Num 1:18</p>
	Contributions	
<p>Minimum age for special contribution.</p>	<p>Everyone who is counted from twenty years old and above will give the contribution of KYRIOS.</p>	<p>Exo 30:14</p>
	Kings	
<p>Age of King Josiah to have full spiritual maturity and royal power as king. Josiah was not any king, but he is actually depicted as -the- most righteous king, the only one to fully implement the reforms outlined in the Book of the Law. Josiah's comprehensive covenant renewal surpassed even David's devotion in scale and impact, though both are considered great, righteous kings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Age 8 – Start of his reign Age 16 – Conversion, he is described as 'youth'. The subsequent four years (from 16 to 20) likely allowed him to solidify his personal faith, establish his spiritual authority, and prepare the necessary, probably dangerous, campaign against a deeply entrenched idolatrous culture. Age 20 – Full (spiritual) power and inspiration to remove the high places, in fulfillment of a prophecy made 300 years earlier by an unnamed prophet in 1Kin 13:2, who foretold that a son named Josiah would arise to destroy the idols and the pagan priests at Bethel. Age 26 – Repair of the Temple, which led to the rediscovery of the Book of the Law inside the Temple. 	<p>[Age 8] Josias was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of KYRIOS, and walked in the ways of his father David, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left ...</p>	<p>2Chr 34:1-7</p>
	<p>[Age 16] And in the eighth year of his reign, and he being yet a youth, he began to seek the KYRIOS the THEOS of his father David ...</p>	
	<p>[Age 20] And in the twelfth year of his reign he began to purge Juda and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the ornaments for the altars, and the molten images. And he pulled down the altars of Baalim that were before his face, and the high places that were above them; and he cut down the groves, and the graven images, and broke in pieces the molten images, and reduced them to powder, and cast it upon the surface of the tombs of those who had sacrificed to them. And he burnt the bones of the priests upon the altars, and purged Juda and Jerusalem. And he did so in the cities of Manasse, and Ephraim, and Symeon, and Nephthali, and the places round about them.</p>	
<p>Kings most often started their reign at the age of 20-25 years (where recorded).</p>	<p>- Kings of the United Kingdom</p>	<p>Saul (30 years) · Ish-bosheth (40 years) · David (30 years) · Solomon (20 years)</p>
	<p>- Kings of Israel (Northern Part)</p>	<p>Jeroboam I · Nadab · Baasha · Elah · Zimri · Omri · Ahab · Ahaziah (20 or 22 years) · Jehoram (32 years) · Jehu · Jehoahaz · Joash (7 years) · Jeroboam II · Zechariah · Shallum · Menahem · Pekahiah · Pekah · Hoshea</p>
	<p>- Kings of Judah (Southern Part)</p>	<p>Rehoboam (41 years) · Abijam · Asa · Jehoshaphat (35 years) · Jehoram (32 years) · Ahaziah (22 years) · Athaliah · Joash · Amaziah (25 years) · Uzziah (16 years) · Jotham (25 years) · Ahaz (20 years) · Hezekiah (25 years) · Manasseh (12 years) · Amon (22 years) · Josiah (8 years) · Jehoahaz (23 years) · Jehoiakim (25 years) · Jehoiachin (18 years) · Zedekia (21 years)</p>
	Temple	
<p>Age for Levites to fully serve in the house of KYRIOS.</p>	<p>These were the sons of Levi [...] who were to do the work of the service of the house of KYRIOS, from twenty years old and above.</p>	<p>1Chr 23:24</p>
	<p>... the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, according to their posts by their working groups. And they were enrolled with all their little ones, their wives, their sons, and their daughters ...</p>	<p>2Chr 31:17-18</p>
<p>Not coincidentally, the Temple of Jerusalem including Solomon's own house was finished after a construction period of precisely 20 years.</p>	<p>And it came to pass when Solomon had finished building the house of KYRIOS and his own house after twenty years, then king Solomon assembled all the elders of Israel in Sion, to bring the ark of the covenant of KYRIOS out of the city of David, this is Sion, in the month of Athanin.</p>	<p>1Kin 8:1-2</p>
	The Little Children	
<p>David's actions clearly prove that children are saved.</p>	<p>... and David said to his servants, Is the child dead? and they said, He is dead. Then David rose up from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his raiment, and went into the house of THEOS, and worshipped him; and went into his own house, and called for bread to eat, and they set bread before him and he ate. And his servants said to him, What is this thing that thou hast done concerning the child? while it was yet living thou didst fast, and weep, and watch: and when the child was dead thou didst rise up, and didst eat bread, and drink. And David said, While the child yet lived, I fasted and wept; for I said, Who knows if KYRIOS will pity me, and the child live? But now it is dead, why should I fast thus? will I be able to bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.</p>	<p>2Sam 12:19-23</p>
<p>IESOUS proved the Old Testament taught. He taught that all children belong to the Kingdom of the Heavens, without providing any further qualification. But this automatism is only effective until before the children achieve the Age of Accountability.</p>	<p>Now IESOUS said: "Let the children go, and do not restrain them to come to me. For of such is the Kingdom of the Heavens."</p>	<p>Mat 19:14</p>
	<p>But when IESOUS saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of THEOS."</p>	<p>Mar 10:14</p>
	<p>But IESOUS called them to Him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of THEOS. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of THEOS like a child shall not enter it."</p>	<p>Luk 18:16</p>
	Possible Limitation!	
<p>To my knowledge, there is one passage, which possibly limits the salvation of children younger than 20 years to those children, who have at least one parent who is a believer. This passage definitely implies that there are unholy children, which in turn can be interpreted as unsaved children. This would mean that if a child dies before the age of 20, it is only saved if it has on the day of his or her death a believing parent.</p> <p>Ezra 9 and 10 in the Old Covenant tells us also that children born of foreign marriages were to be treated as 'unholy', resulting in this account in the separation of entire families.</p>	<p>And to the rest I speak –not KYRIOS- if any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she is pleased to dwell with him, do not let him send her away; and a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he is pleased to dwell with her, do not let her send him away. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified in the wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified in the husband; otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.</p>	<p>1Cor 7:12-14</p>

BIBLICAL AGE GROUPS

4 - Occurrences of the Term 'Year' in the Biblical Context



Years	Related To Life Stages				Related To Specific Events										Others			Sum		
	Father-hood	Remainder Lifetime	Total Lifetime	Human Value	Event, General	Census	Circum-cision	Captivity, Disaster, Slavery, War	Dream	Healing	Kingship, Judges	Leadership, Ministry, Serving	Marriage	Testing	Work, Rest	Animals	Planting, Harvest		Symbolism	
1																				26
2																				28
3																				35
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* Double mentions of the same event within the same book are not counted.

