

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

"And an highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness."

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## YOUTH'S PLACE IN THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Great Commission is clear and brief: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." There need be no misunderstanding its meaning; nor is there need for any question about Youth's place in it.

History's voice is replete with the achievements of young people. The list of prominent characters in the Bible contains an impressive number of youthful individuals. Isaac, according to Josephus, was only twenty-five years old when he became the great type of the sacrifice on Calvary. Joseph became prime minister of the greatest nation of his time when he was only thirty years old.

It was just a young girl, Miriam, whose faithful watchfulness over baby Moses brought his little life into contact with the princess of Egypt, and thus saved for all mankind the influence of one of the greatest leaders that ever lived. Joshua was minister to Moses (Exodus 24:13) when he was just a young man (Exodus 3:11).

Young Gideon delivered Israel out of the hands of the Midianites. Of him it is written: "He was, in the family of Joash, what David was in the family of Jesse—the least respected boy in the family circle." It was as a youth that Samson, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, performed those mighty deeds which bewildered his enemies and left them despairing of revenge.

Samuel began his renowned ministry as a lad of tender years. "A choice young man" is the language used to describe Saul, the first king appointed by God over Israel. The exploits of the boy-shepherd, David, were in keeping with his noble character. At thirty years of age he sat on the throne of Israel. Solomon, the wisest king, took the rulership when but nineteen or twenty years of age.

Esther's superb consecration is expressed in the noble lines: "And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish." Her age at the time of this selfless resolve is believed to have been twenty years.

It is supposed that Isaiah was no more than twenty years old when he began to prophesy; Jeremiah, when he was called to the prophetic office, described himself as a child. Ezekiel was about thirty when he took his place among the prophets. Daniel was conspicuously distinguished for purity and knowledge at a very early age. The bold stand of three young Hebrews and their miraculous escape from the fiery furnace have inspired multitudes across the span of ages.

In the New Testament, the place of youth

is likewise impressive. "There can be no doubt," says one writer, "that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was young in years." John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, was a young man and ended his ministry before he was thirty-five.

Jesus had completed the great atonement for all men, of all time, of all places, at the age of thirty-three. Even creation's mighty grandeur does not equal the sublime recreative, redemptive act performed on Calvary by our Lord.

A young lad's lunch was used to feed the multitude. The artlessness of little children was made the example of the type of faith that pleases God and produces conversion. Apparently most of the apostles were young men. The young man who witnessed Stephen's triumphant martyrdom was none other than the great Apostle Paul, whose missionary journeys and irresistible writings have vibrated the centuries with unquestioned power and influence.

Timothy was told, "let no man despise thy youth." The venerable Apostle John, with deep affection says: "I have written to you, young men, because ye are strong and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one."

Someone has said: "Age does not always bring wisdom. . . True excellence and trustworthiness may be found in the lowly abodes and in youthful years. Character is the supreme test of what is good."

An examination of the landscape of history reveals that the matter of age has not acquired so prominent a place in achievement as has fixedness of purpose and native ability. It is true that many leaders of commerce, industry, and civic endeavor have the advantages that years bestow, but investigation reveals surprising accomplishments by many youthful individuals who have not had the help that experience brings.

Effects of young people are not to be lightly esteemed. Future years may reveal a permanence of achievement not appreciated by contemporary elders. John Calvin published his Institutes when he was twenty-seven years old. Thomas Jefferson was thirty-three when he wrote the Declaration of Independence. It was the young men in the Colonial Legislature who supported the daring Patrick Henry.

The great Talmadge on one occasion reminded his hearers of Romulus who founded Rome when he was twenty years of age; of Pitt who was prime minister of England at twenty-four years; of Melancthon who took a learned professor's chair at twenty-one years, and of Luther who had conquered Ger-

many for the Reformation by the time he was thirty-five years old.

It is important that people in their youth make their decision to follow the Lord. "We talk about a man beginning life at twenty one, but in nine cases out of ten, all the questions of eternity are decided before that."

The Air Surgeon's Office of the United States Army Corps has an organization of specialists in psychology who studied records and made selections of men for various duties in the air. Their work was based on sound science and was remarkably efficient. This was one of their discoveries, and it is significant: Pilots under twenty-one years of age were better than those older.

Timour the Tartar delivered his country when he was twenty-five years old. Before he died he wore the crowns of twenty-seven kingdoms.

The great Alexander, King of Macedonia, came to the throne in his twentieth year. He is said to have been "the most consummate general of ancient times, and perhaps of all ages." He died in his youth—age thirty-three.

Napoleon Bonaparte was only twenty-seven when he was made commander in chief of the army of Italy. In ten months the young general, with 55,000 men, had defeated five armies of 200,000 men led by veteran commanders, and had taken 100,000 prisoners.

At twenty-three, William of Orange, later conqueror of Britain, "was renowned throughout Europe as a soldier."

George Washington, at sixteen, was sent to survey a tract of land in the wilderness. His historic trip to the French general at Fort Le Boeuf in 1753, was a marvelous triumph over extreme difficulties and hardships. It was achieved when he was only twenty-one.

Commodore Oliver H. Perry defeated the British squadron on Lake Erie in a historic sea battle and laid open the way for the invasion of Canada. He was twenty-seven at the time and had never been in a naval battle before.

Lafayette was only twenty years old when he was made a major-general of the United States Army, and gained the highest respect and esteem of Washington and of Congress. "He had won a place among the world's immortals when yet a boy!"

Ronald Mackenzie was regarded by General Grant as the finest cavalry division commanded in the Union Armies. He was twenty-one.

Sir Isaac Newton was only twenty-three when he made his greatest discovery—the law of gravitation.

William Cullen Bryant had won local fame as a poet when he was thirteen, and his pro-

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