

TEENS IN THE BIBLE!

By Bruce

The Bible has many glorious testimonies of how the Lord used Teens & Pre-teens throughout the Old & New Testaments. Here are the accounts of a number of them.

Moses' sister Miriam was the responsible young girl who kept a close eye on her baby brother, floating in a basket in the river. She then informed Pharaoh's daughter that she knew a nursemaid who could take care of him, & went & got the babe's own mother. (Exo.2:4) "And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him." After Pharaoh's daughter had brought the baby out of the water, verse 7, "then said his (Moses') sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go & call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went & called the child's mother." (Her mother!)

It was a young boy that led Samson around when he was blind in the temple of the Philistines & placed the strong man's hands upon the pillars of the temple of Dagon to enable him to pull the house down & slay 3,000 lords or chief rulers & city fathers of the enemy Philistines. (Judges 16:26) "And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house

standeth, that I may lean upon them."

The child Samuel grew in the nurture & admonition of the Lord. 1 Sam. 3:19: "And Samuel grew, & the Lord was with him & did let none of His Words fall to the ground."

In 1 Sam.16, the Prophet Samuel goes to the house of Jesse to anoint the future King of Israel, David, the shepherd boy. Verse 11: "And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, there remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep...." Verse 12: "And he sent & brought him in. Now he was ruddy (freshly or healthily reddish in complexion), & withal of a beautiful countenance & goodly to look at. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he." (1 Sam.16:1-14)

In 1 Sam.17:33, David, when he was still a teen, was God's anointed who bravely delivered the Israelites from the oppression of the Philistines & their giant champion, Goliath. "And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for thou art but a youth, & he a man of war from his youth." Verse 42: "And when the Philistine looked about, & saw David, he disdained (scorned, treated as not worthy to notice) him: for he was but a youth, & ruddy, & of a fair countenance." (1 Sam.17:33-58) Afterward King Saul asked whose son this "stripling" (a youth approaching manhood) was.

Another teen was Jonathan's armour-bearer who helped him win a miraculous victory over the garrison of the Philistines in 1 Sam.14, v. 6. "And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, & let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the Lord will work for us; for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few." Verse 7: "And his armour-bearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart."

In 2 Kings 5, the little maiden that was carried away captive from Israel by the Syrians was faithful to witness to Naaman the Leper's wife & eventually her witness reached the king, who commissioned Naaman to go & to be healed in Israel. 2 Kings 5:2-4: "And the Syrians had gone out by companies, & had brought away captive out of the land



Miriam, Moses' sister--A faithful Old Testament Teen!

of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, would God my lord were with the Prophet that is in Samaria! For he would recover him of his leprosy. And one went in, & told his lord, saying, Thus & thus said the maid that is of the Land of Israel." Thus the King of Syria sent Naaman to Israel to be healed. (2 Kings 5:2-14)

Later, King Joash began to reign in Israel when only a child. 2Chron.24:1,2: "Joash was seven years old when he began to reign & he reigned 40 years in Jerusalem. And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada, the priest."

In 2Chron.26, Uzziah was made king when he was a 16-year-old teenager. 2Chron.26:4-5: "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah did. And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: & as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper." Uzziah was a very industrious soldier, & builder, gardener & inventor. He went forth & conquered many of the heathen neighbors of the Israelites, built up the fortifications of Jerusalem & trained & equipped a large army. He also had people invent engines of war to defend the city (Read 2Chron.26:1-15). Uzziah "was marvellously helped, til he was strong."--in himself! "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction." (2Chron. 26:15,16)

Josiah was another king of Israel who started to reign when he was a child. 2Chron.34:1-4: "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, & he reigned in Jerusalem one & thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord & walked in the ways of David his father, & declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign (he would have been 16 years old), while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: & in the twelfth year (at 20 years old), he began to purge Judah & Jerusalem from the high places, & the groves, & the carved images, & the molten images. And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; & the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; & the groves, & the carved images, & the molten images, he brake in pieces, & made dust of them, & strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto

them."--A teenage idol-smasher who purged the nation of idolatry!

Beautiful Esther, who married King Ahasuerus (Xerxes), won the king's heart when she was just a teen. Esther 2:3: "The king appointed officers of his kingdom, to gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of women..." verse 7: "And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother: & the maid was fair & beautiful." Verse 9: "And the maiden pleased him (the king) & she obtained kindness of him: ..and he preferred her & her maidens unto the best place of the house of women." Young Esther actually saved the lives & fate of her people by risking death by going before the king when not called for. The treacherous Haman, the Jews' enemy, tricked & paid the king a lot of money to let him have the Jews killed. Once the king had decreed something, it could not be changed, but Esther was able to intercede for her people & the king allowed them to defend themselves when attacked by their enemies, otherwise they would have all been wiped out. Xerxes' son, Artaxerxes I, who was Esther's step-son, was the Persian King who gave Nehemiah permission to rebuild Jerusalem.

Jeremiah was a teen when he received the call of the Lord. In Jer. 1:6 & 7, it says, "Then said I, Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child! But the Lord said unto me, Say not I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, & whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." This was the Lord's commission to Jeremiah, the famous prophet of doom, when he was only beginning his ministry.

Daniel & his three friends who were carried away captive to Babylon were considered very wise & royal-blooded teenagers. It appears they could have played an important role in the administration of the Babylonian Empire due to the wisdom that the Lord had given all four boys. (Dan.1:4) "Children in whom was no blemish, but well-favoured, & skilful in all wisdom, & cunning in knowledge, & understanding science, & such as had ability in them to stand in the King's palace & whom they might teach the learning & the tongue of the Chaldeans."

Dan.1:17:--"As for these four children, God gave them knowledge & skill in all learning & wisdom: & Daniel had understanding in all visions & dreams." Verse 19: "And the King communed with them;



Teenage Jesus with his father... "He increased in wisdom & in stature & in favour with God & man."

& among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah; therefore stood they before the King." Verse 20: "And in all matters of wisdom & understanding that the King inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians & astrologers that were in all his realm."-- And Babylon, the World Empire at the time, was the center of all learning & science. God's teens excelled above the Chaldeans, the most learned class of priests, magicians & astrologers of that time! The Chaldeans were originally from Ur, where Abraham was from. It was a world-renowned center of learning & commerce & in its day was the greatest city in the World. The Chaldeans that are spoken of in Daniel were a continuation of the race of people from Ur, still the most learned, intelligent, wise & powerful men even in the days of Daniel.

Jesus' mother, Mary, was only 16 years old when she was called by God to be the mother of Jesus, His only Son. Luke 1:26-28: "...The Angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph... & the virgin's name was Mary." Verse 34: "Then said Mary unto the Angel, How shall these things be, seeing I know not a man?" And the angel came in unto her! For "she found favour with God" & all generations called her blessed!

Jesus, when He was 12 years old, amazed

the doctors of the law by answering their questions & also realised at this early age what His calling was. Luke 2:40-42: "And the child grew & waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: & the grace of God was upon Him. And when He was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast." Verse 45: "And they found Him not, & they turned back again to Jerusalem seeking Him." Verse 46: "And it came to pass, that after three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them & asking them questions." Verse 47: "And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding & answers." Verse 49: "How is it that ye sought Me? Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Verse 52: "And Jesus increased in wisdom & stature, & in favour with God & man."

In John chapter 21, verse 15, Jesus commissioned Peter to feed His lambs, or young sheep (perhaps a commission to teach & train teens?). Verse 15: "So when they had dined, Jesus said unto Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He said unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My lambs." Only new bottles can take the new wine! (MK. 2:22!)

Timothy in the New Testament was a teen who had a real heritage of faith from both his mother & even grandmother. (2 Tim.1:2) "To Timothy, my dearly beloved son." Verse 5: "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, & thy mother Eunice; & I am persuaded that in thee also." (2 Tim.3:15) "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

So as you can see, the Lord throughout history has used teens & preteens to fulfil His Will & plan, & that certainly hasn't changed in these Last Days! PTL!

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And it shall come to pass in the Last Days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: & your sons & your daughters shall prophesy, & your young men shall see visions, & your old men shall dream dreams:

And on My servants & on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; & they shall prophesy.--Acts 2:17,18