

MORTAL SICKNESS

In our lesson text, Jacob has become bed-ridden with Mortal Sickness.

In a previous conversation with Pharaoh, Jacob revealed his age to be **130** (Gen.47:8-9). In Gen.48:10, it says that Jacob's "eyes were dim from age."

Time and age have caught up with Jacob in what we are referring to as Mortal Sickness taught by Solomon in Eccl.3:1-2 – "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven – a time for birth and a time to die."

(2 Cor.5:4) "For indeed while we are in **this tent**, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is **mortal** (thnetos/ liable to death) will be swallowed up by life."

<p>This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of Mortal Sickness in life of a believer.</p>
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1. Jacob entered Egypt at age of 130. He lived in Egypt 17 years and died at the age of 147 (Gen.47:9, 28). Jacob is now in his "time to die."

We are referring to it as Mortal Sickness. Jacob has become a bed-ridden believer (Gen.48:1-2, 10; 49:33).

Jacob is living in a normal event of life called, "a time to die" (Eccl.3:2). But Jacob made his bed a pulpit of ministry for Christ.

People normally think about the "time to die" according to life expectancy of their **culture** (USA/ 76 for men and 81 for women) or of the **postdiluvian civilization** (after Noah's flood) (70-120) (Gen.6:3; Ps.90:10).

Jacob is living in the postdiluvian civilization period

(Job 14:5) "Since **his days** are determined, the number of **his months** is with You; and **his limits You have set** so that he cannot pass." (Heb.9:27)

2. There is a spiritual side to Mortal Sickness that is revealed with Jacob at age of 130.

Jacob is sharp in mind, spirit, and soul regarding the plan of God. He is still ministering his spiritual responsibilities as patriarch of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen.47-49).

For example, Jacob adopted the two sons of Joseph as heirs to the tribal descendants of Abrahamic Covenant.

Word of God (Categorical Bible Doctrine) orients the spiritually mature believer to every event of life in the plan of God (Eccl.3).

(Prov.18:14) "The spirit of man can endure his sickness, but as for a broken spirit who can bear it?"

(2 Cor.4:16) "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our **outer man is decaying**, yet our **inner man is being renewed day by day.**" (2 Cor.4:16-18)

3. One important doctrinal principle for believers living in Church age with Mortal Sickness is that the church age believer's body is the temple of God.

Note 6 Points about your body as temple of God, (1 Cor.6:19-20):

“Or do you not know that:

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| (1) | (2 Cor.6:16) | your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit |
| (2) | (1 Cor.3:16; John 14:16) | who is in you, |
| (3) | (Gal.3:2) | whom you have from God, and that |
| (4) | (Eph.2:18-22) | you are not your own? For you have been |
| (5) | (John 7:37-39) | bought with a price; |
| (6) | (1 Cor.6:19-20) | Therefore glorify God in your body.” |

4. God's greater than Mortal Sickness.

(Ps.41:3) “The Lord will sustain him upon his sick bed; in his illness, You restore him to health.”
(Ps.103:1-5)

(2 Kings 20:1a) “In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill.”

There are two types of health important to the Christian way of life (CWL): physical and spiritual (3 John 2-3).

The Lord restored King Hezekiah's health (Isa.38:1-6, 21).

(Isa.38:5) “Go and say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of your father David, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.’”

It is imperative for the believer experiencing Mortal Sickness to understand that God has a divine purpose with it.

- **Job, businessman**
 - (Job 1-2) Undeserved Suffering (James 5:11; Job 42:12) Conflict with Satan
- **Dorcas, community service**
 - (Acts 9:36-43) Community ministry
- **Epaphroditus, pastor-teacher**
 - (Phil.2:25-30) Church family (team player)
- **Paul, world missionary**
 - (2 Cor12:1-10) Content with sickness

Remember that Jesus Christ is **our Great Physician** (Matt.4:23-25; Acts 10:38; Luke 4:16-30).

(Luke 4:23) “No doubt you will quote this Scripture to me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done in Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’”