

# Job 32:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion.

## Analysis

Elihu explains his hesitation: "I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion." The Hebrew yare (יָרָא, "afraid") and gur (גָּרָע, "durst not") express reverence and trepidation. Ancient culture valued age and experience (Leviticus 19:32). Yet Elihu will argue that wisdom doesn't automatically come with age—it's a gift of the Spirit (verse 8). This tension between honoring tradition and recognizing that truth isn't bound by seniority appears throughout Scripture. From a Reformed perspective, this models proper humility while maintaining commitment to truth. Paul instructs Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth" (1 Timothy 4:12), affirming that God can speak through the young. Elihu's respectful yet confident approach balances deference to elders with boldness to speak truth. His testimony encourages younger believers to contribute to theological discourse while maintaining appropriate humility.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern societies were gerontocracies—elders held authority in wisdom and governance. Proverbs repeatedly extols learning from the aged (Proverbs 16:31, 20:29). Yet Scripture also records young people receiving divine revelation (Samuel, Jeremiah, Daniel). Elihu represents the tension between cultural norms of age-based authority and theological conviction that wisdom is divinely granted regardless of age.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How can younger believers contribute to theological discussions while honoring their elders?
2. What is the proper relationship between respecting tradition and pursuing truth that may challenge conventional wisdom?
3. How does Elihu's example inform intergenerational dialogue in the church today?

## Interlinear Text

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אָעָרָרְתָּ אֶתְּנָמָרְתָּ בְּנֵי בְּרָכָא לְבָבָזְיָה וְאֶלְיָהָה וְאֶלְיָעָזְרָא  
answered And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite and said I am young  
H6030 H453 H1121 H1292 H940 H559 H6810

זַיְדְתָּ מִנְיָמִים אֲגָם וְאַתָּתָּ מִנְיָמִים אֲגָם  
and ye are very old wherefore I was afraid  
H589 H3117 H859 H3453 H5921 H3651 H2119

אַתְּכָמָן דְּעַי מִתְּחַזֵּה תְּאַיֵּחַ אֵל  
and durst not shew you mine opinion H853  
H3372 H2331 H1843

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 15:10** (Parallel theme): With us are both the grayheaded and very aged men, much elder than thy father.

**1 Timothy 5:1** (Parallel theme): Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

**1 Peter 5:5** (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

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