

# Job 32:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.

## Analysis

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**I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom** (אָמַרְתִּי יָמִים יְדַבְּרוּ וְרֹב שָׁנִים יְדִיעוּ חֹכְמָה, 'amarti yamim yedabberu verov shanim yodi'u chokhmah)—yamim (days) metonymically represents advanced age; rov means abundance or multitude; shanah is year; chokhmah is wisdom, skill, or insight. The verb dabar (speak) suggests that age itself should proclaim truth.

Elihu articulates a cultural assumption: age brings wisdom through accumulated experience and reflection. Proverbs 16:31 says 'the hoary head is a crown of glory,' and Leviticus 19:32 commands standing before the aged. Yet Elihu's next verse (32:8) qualifies this: 'there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.' True wisdom comes not from years but from God's Spirit. Paul instructs Timothy, 'Let no man despise thy youth' (1 Timothy 4:12), and Jesus astonished elders with childhood wisdom (Luke 2:46-47). The Bible honors age but recognizes that spiritual wisdom transcends chronology.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern cultures venerated age as the primary source of wisdom, reflected in councils of elders governing communities. The wisdom literature (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) consistently explores whether experience alone produces understanding or whether divine revelation is necessary. Elihu represents a transitional figure: respecting age while insisting that God's Spirit, not mere longevity, imparts true wisdom.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways does your culture honor or dishonor the wisdom that can come with age and experience?
2. How can we balance respect for elders with recognition that the Holy Spirit can grant wisdom to the young?
3. What is the difference between wisdom gained through experience and wisdom that comes from divine revelation?

## Interlinear Text

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אָ מִרְתִּי	יָמֵי יָם	יִדְבָּרוּ	וְרַב	שָׁנֵי יָם	יִדְּעוּ
<b>I said</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>should speak</b>	<b>and multitude</b>	<b>of years</b>	<b>should teach</b>
H559	H3117	H1696	H7230	H8141	H3045

  

חֵכְמָה:
<b>wisdom</b>
H2451

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 12:12** (Parallel theme): With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.

**Proverbs 16:31** (Parallel theme): The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.