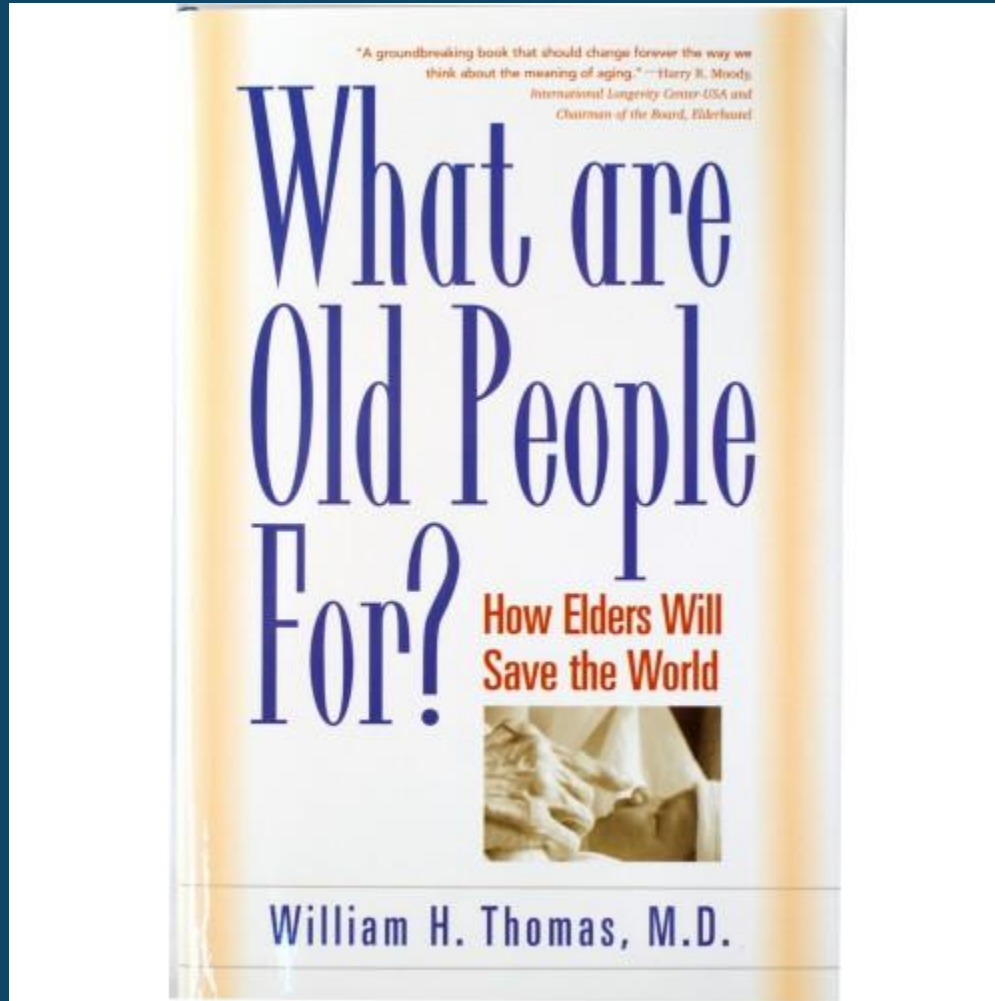


# Why God designed old age



Gerontologist and socialactivistDr William H Thomas, (46) puts the case for God's plan for old age in this book.

So do many psychologists – Prof Becca Levy, Yale Uni; Laura Carstensen, Stanford University - see on YouTube

*We are living longer than any generation ever has before. So why is it that we do not always see the richness of God's plan for us in old age?*

God sees old age as a time of harvest: of fruitfulness and wisdom – it is one of the seasons of life that He created. But sometimes this vision does not seem to match reality. Approaching old age can trigger many fears – that we will become isolated, suffer from ill health, or lose our sense of purpose.

Louise Morse believes there is a huge amount that we can all do to *live well* as we *live longer*, and to increase our expectations of what old age can be.

In this straightforward, wise, and practical book, Louise offers suggestions to yield both abundance and cheerfulness! Touching on issues of respect, outlook, and purpose, Louise Morse shows how all of us – whatever our age – have a valuable place in tomorrow's world.

Louise is an author of leading books on issues of dementia and old age. A journalist with a diploma in international marketing, and a Master's Degree in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Louise is currently Media and Communications manager for Pilgrims' Friend Society.

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WHAT'S AGE GOT TO DO WITH IT? Louise Morse



Louise Morse



# WHAT'S AGE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

*Living out God's purpose at all ages*

'Even the aged ...'

Job 29:8



In the culture of both old and new Testaments, the peak cultural achievement was wisdom.

'Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.'  
Deut.32:7

In today's culture the peak is youth and celebrity

Older people are seen as 'past it', over the cliff: beneficiaries and not as the Scriptures describe them.

# Knowledge can be acquired, wisdom has to be learnt from experience.

- Let us entertain the idea that character requires the additional years and that the long last of life is forced upon us neither by genes nor by conservation or medicine nor by societal collusion. *The last years conform and fulfil character.'*

(Psychologist James Hillman, 1999.)

God hones us all our lives so that as 'elders'  
we can -

- radiate His graciousness and righteousness (Proverbs 4:18)
- share experiences; to tell out His works (Psalm 78, 71, 145)
- teach and encourage the younger generation Titus, Timothy
- mentor, listen, strengthen society as SENIORS
- be an ELDERHOOD. Exodus 12

Older people ... more positive ...less inclined to negativity .. have wisdom ... increased knowledge and expertise ... less critical and judgemental ... more given to reconciliation than confrontation ... better listeners ... more balanced emotional equilibrium

*But older people themselves do not see the role  
God intended for them.*

*Because we have all absorbed ageist attitudes  
from our youth.*

# The cultural revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s.



Changed cultural mores

Actively denigrated old age and status older people

Built 'cult' of youth and achievement

Resulted in the ageism that we absorb unconsciously today



For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

- *? How do we, in our churches, build into older people an expectation of their God-planned role?*
- *? How do we detect ageist attitudes in ourselves?*

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