

The Lily Pad



"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." Solomon 2:1



30; "BEA READY" - The best is yet to come!

The attainment of 30 years is a very significant stage in humanity's life; because at 30, one is no more a child but a young man or

woman. The 30th birthday is special. A person is officially considered mature and responsible, possessing the necessary wisdom to make significant decisions in their life.



In Biblical time, 30 is considered the year of a major breakthrough. Listed are individual who came into their importance at age 30:

- Joseph was 30 years old when he became second in command to Pharaoh, after being in prison as a slave in Egypt (Genesis 41:46).
- The priests officially entered service at age 30 (Numbers 4:3).
- Saul became King when he was 30 years old (1 Samuel 13:1).
- David became King when he was 30 years old (2 Samuel 5:4).
- Ezekiel was called by God as a prophet at age 30 (Ezekiel 1:1).
- When Moses died, the Israelites mourned him for 30 days (Deuteronomy 34:8).
- Judas received 30 silver pieces to deliver Jesus (Matthew 27:3)

Luke then puts the focus on Jesus.

The timeline of Jesus' ministry and public life begins with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the fifteenth year of Roman Emperor Tiberius according to Luke 3:1. John the Baptist begins his public ministry with the call to repentance in the region of the Jordan River. Then John baptized Jesus: *"and as Jesus rose up out of the water, the heavenly realm opened up over him and he saw the Holy Spirit descend out of the heavens and rest upon him in the form of a dove. Then suddenly the voice of the Father shouted from the sky, saying, "This is the Son I love, and my greatest delight is in him."*

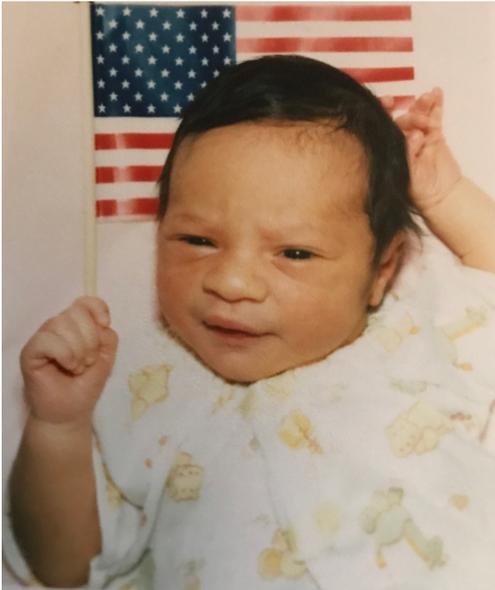
Then Jesus officially started his ministry, age 30. Before this time, he worked as a carpenter and “grew in stature, wisdom, and favor with God and humanity.” Jesus went from being a lowly carpenter, from a lowly town, to become a Messiah, the King of Kings—who would forever change the world, pay the penalty for our sins on a rugged cross, rise from the dead, and sit at the right hand of God the Father until all is complete— all within about 3 short years.

From the scriptures above, it is quite clear that God places a great amount of emphasis on the age (or number) 30. I find it intriguing that our Lord Jesus waited all the way to age 30 to begin his official ministry, being obedient to the law of priesthood for He is indeed our High Priest forever and ever.

Dear Friends, I hope this mini bible study reiterates to each of you that one day life can be bleak, boring, meaningless, full of uncertainties, causing you to feel like you’re getting nowhere fast, and then – **BOOM** – God can mingle things up and bless you with incredible power, authority, and anointing. **Incredible!** God uses his sovereign power to completely change our circumstances.

“Taxation without representation!” was the battle cry in America’s 13 Colonies, which were forced to pay taxes to England’s King George III despite having no representation in the British Parliament. British troops were sent in to quell the early movement toward rebellion. The Colonists repeated attempts to resolve the crisis without military conflict proved fruitless.

On June 11, 1776, the Second Continental Congress drafted a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain and the Continental Congress officially adopted the final version on July 4, 1776. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks.



July 4th will be our daughter Biancha’s (Bea) 30th birthday. Our second daughter is a very caring and loving young woman who is extremely fond and committed to her family and loved ones. She is a catalyst for harmony when her surroundings are filled with discord. Biancha is intelligent, compassionate, fair-minded, and beautiful!

Her Dad and I are prayerful of this transitioning season for Biancha; transitioning from a “20-something” to a 30-year-old, an age ripe for leadership and spiritual transformation. We look forward to her having more maturity and knowledge, (she’s completing a Mechanical Engineering degree program) all the while devoting more time to learning and budding as a spiritual woman.

Biancha G. Martinelli, July 4, 1989 @ 1840.

May you be wise like Deborah, loyal like Ruth, and Joyful like Elizabeth. May your prayers be heard like Hannah’s. May you find favor like Esther, and May you have a heart like Mary’s. May you grow to be a Woman of God.” Author Unknown.

Our hope for Biancha is that her rearview look back at her 20's will confirm an accomplished period (season) in her life - mistakes and triumphs, boosting her boldly forward into her successful fruitful future, jam-packed with never-ending possibilities and ambitions. We give all honor and gratitude to a compassionate, forgiving, and gracious God.

Yes, apparently God really places a great importance on the age of 30. Our Savior postponed his official ministry to age 30. I think this is a principle people should still follow today; spend more time learning and growing as Christian. That's not to say you should do **NOTHING** until 30. There are many great ways to help out the Kingdom of God. I encourage you to study your Bible. It's amazing how many times and how significant you will find this age, 30, but most importantly the Bible is God's Word to us. Studying the Bible, then, is a matter of course for those who love God and desire to follow Him. Be confident Sisters and Brothers, God places significance in all ages of our lives - placing something incredible in your life; changing behaviors, as we are showered with forgiveness; granting us renewed energy to do faithful work in the Kingdom.

Yes, Scriptures offers people of all ages being used by God, reiterating the fact is it doesn't matter what age you are. If you have a heart to serve God, He will put you to work. How old are you? It really doesn't matter - 20, 40, 60, 80? It all starts with having faith in Jesus and trusting His salvation - after that, the possibilities are endless. God can and will use you for the glory of His great name.

When will this happen? Only time will tell. You won't be perfect at age 30 or any age. But be **READY!** Ready for whatever God has in store for your life!

According to Harvey Allen, "the only time you really live fully is from thirty to sixty. The young are slaves to dreams; the old servants of regrets. Only the middle-aged have all their five senses in the keeping of their wits". Amen!

Have a blessed Summer!

Pastor Clarissa

To our beloved Biancha (Bea),
On July 4th we will celebrate ¼ of the best gift
that we have ever received and that's your birth.
Thank you for being an awesome blessing in our lives.
Happy Birthday!
Love you so much more,
Dad, Mom, Rissa, Phia, Nic,
Cookie, Hachi, and Sadie

