

1 Peter 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

Analysis

Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6-8 to contrast humanity's frailty with God's word's permanence. "For all flesh is as grass" (dioti pasa sarx hōs chortos)—all humanity resembles grass in its temporary nature. "And all the glory of man as the flower of grass" (kai pasa doxa anthrōpou hōs anthos chortou)—human achievement, beauty, strength, fame—all human glory resembles wildflowers: beautiful but brief. The imagery continues: "The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away" (exēranthē ho chortos kai to anthos exepesen)—grass dries up, flowers drop off. This describes all earthly things' transience—beauty fades, strength weakens, fame forgotten, empires collapse. Peter applies this to persecuted believers: earthly glory (wealth, status, power) is fleeting; only God's word endures.

Historical Context

Isaiah wrote during Judah's crisis when Babylonian empire threatened destruction. God assured His people that though mighty Babylon seemed permanent, it would wither like grass while God's promises stood forever. Peter applies this to Roman Empire—persecuting believers might think Rome permanent and powerful, but it too will wither. Only God's word abides. This encouraged believers facing emperor worship demands—Caesar's glory would fade, but God's word endures. History proved Peter right—Roman Empire fell, but Scripture remains. The passage reminds believers not to invest ultimate hope in transient earthly things (wealth, beauty, power, fame) but in eternal word.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What specific 'glories of man' (achievements, possessions, status) are you tempted to trust in rather than God's enduring word?
2. How does remembering that all earthly glory 'withers' change your priorities and pursuits?

Interlinear Text

διότι	πᾶσα	σὰρξ	ὥς	χόρτος	καὶ	πᾶσα	δόξα
For	all	flesh	as	The grass	and	all	the glory
G1360	G3956	G4561	G5613	G5528	G2532	G3956	G1391
ἀνθρώπου	ὥς	ἄνθος	χόρτος	ἐξηράνθη	ὁ	χόρτος	καὶ
of man	as	the flower	The grass	withereth	G3588	The grass	and
G444	G5613	G438	G5528	G3583		G5528	G2532
τὸ	ἄνθος	αὐτοῦ	ἐξέπεσεν·				
G3588	the flower	thereof	falleth away				
	G438	G846	G1601				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 103:15 (Parallel theme): As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

James 4:14 (Parallel theme): Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Psalms 37:2 (Parallel theme): For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

2 Kings 19:26 (Parallel theme): Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.

Psalms 129:6 (Parallel theme): Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withereth afore it groweth up:

Psalms 92:7 (Parallel theme): When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:

1 John 2:17 (Parallel theme): And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Psalms 90:5 (Parallel theme): Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.

Psalms 102:4 (Parallel theme): My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread.