

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 sarkhōs 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" (exērānthē 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 ὡς χόρτος καὶ πᾶσα δόξα
For all flesh as The grass and all the glory
G1360 G3956 G4561 G5613 G5528 G2532 G3956 G1391

ἀνθρώπου ὡς ἄνθος χόρτος ἐξηράνθη ὁ χόρτος καὶ
of man as the flower The grass withereth G3588 The grass and
G444 G5613 G438 G5528 G2532

τὸ ἄνθος αὐτοῦ ἐξέπεσεν.
the flower thereof falleth away
G3588 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 growtheth 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 growtheth up.

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