

1 Peter 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Analysis

Peter concludes the contrast with triumphant affirmation: "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever" (το δέ ῥῆμα κυρίου μενεῖ εἰς τὸν αἰώνα)—while grass withers and flowers fall, God's word remains eternally. "Endureth" (μενεῖ) means remains, abides, stays permanent—unchanging and reliable. Then Peter identifies this eternal word: "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (τοῦτο δέ ἐστιν τὸ ῥῆμα τοῦ εὐαγγελισθέντος εἰς ὑμᾶς)—the Isaiah prophecy's fulfillment is the gospel now proclaimed to Peter's readers. The gospel isn't temporary human philosophy but eternal divine word carrying God's permanence. What gospel preachers proclaimed was Isaiah's promised eternal word bearing fruit in believers' hearts.

Historical Context

Peter equates Old Testament prophecy with New Testament gospel—same eternal word, progressive revelation. The gospel message (Christ's death, resurrection, salvation by grace through faith) isn't novel invention but fulfillment of ancient prophecy. This assured Jewish Christians that gospel aligned with Hebrew Scriptures, and Gentile Christians that they received ancient eternal truth, not recent fabrication. Early church faced accusations of novelty—critics claimed Christianity was new, therefore false. Peter counters: the gospel is manifestation of God's eternal word spoken through prophets. The word's permanence guarantees gospel's truthfulness and believers' security. Empires rise and fall, philosophies come and go, but gospel stands forever.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does knowing the gospel is God's eternal word (not human invention) strengthen your confidence in its truth?
2. What does it mean practically that the 'word preached to you' is the same eternal word Isaiah proclaimed?

Interlinear Text

τὸ	δέ	ῥῆμα	κυρίου	μένει	εἰς	τὸ	αἰῶνα	τοῦτο
which	And	the word	of the Lord	endureth	for	which	ever	this
G3588	G1161	G4487	G2962	G3306	G1519	G3588	G165	G5124
δέ	ἐστιν	τὸ	ῥῆμα	τὸ	εὐαγγελισθὲν	εἰς	ὑμᾶς	
And	is	which	the word	which	by the gospel is preached	for	you	
G1161	G2076	G3588	G4487	G3588	G2097	G1519	G5209	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:8 (Word): The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Psalms 119:89 (Word): For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Matthew 5:18 (Word): For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Psalms 102:12 (References Lord): But thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.

2 Peter 1:19 (Word): We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

1 John 1:1 (Word): That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

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