

Isaiah 40:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

Analysis

This verse contrasts human frailty ('basar,' flesh) with divine eternity. The Hebrew 'chesed' (translated as 'goodliness') refers to covenant loyalty and beauty, yet even humanity's finest qualities wither like grass. This sobering truth humbles human pride and drives us to seek lasting value in God alone.

Historical Context

Peter quotes this passage (1 Peter 1:24-25) to emphasize the eternal nature of God's word versus human mortality, encouraging believers facing persecution to trust in imperishable truth.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing your mortality shape your priorities and pursuits?
2. In what ways are you tempted to trust in fading human strength rather than eternal God?

Interlinear Text

ק וּל	וְאָמַר	אֶקְרָא	וְאָמַר	מִה	אֶקְרָא	כָּל	הַבָּשָׂר
The voice	And he said	Cry	And he said	H4100	Cry	H3605	All flesh
H6963	H559	H7121	H559		H7121		H1320
יֵרְבֶה הָעֵשְׂבִי	וְכָל	חֶסֶד וְ	כֶּצֶיץ	הַשָּׂדֶה:			
is grass	H3605	and all the goodness	thereof is as the flower	of the field			
H2682		H2617	H6731	H7704			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 102:11 (Parallel theme): My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.

Job 14:2 (Parallel theme): He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Isaiah 58:1 (Parallel theme): Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

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:

Isaiah 37:27 (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.

Isaiah 40:3 (Parallel theme): The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Jeremiah 31:6 (Parallel theme): For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God.

Jeremiah 2:2 (Parallel theme): Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine

espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

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