

Isaiah 40:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Analysis

In contrast to grass that withers and flowers that fade, God's word stands forever, unchanging and reliable. The Hebrew word 'dabar' encompasses both God's spoken word and His promises—everything He has declared remains eternally true and effective. Peter quotes this verse (1 Peter 1:23-25) to emphasize the eternal nature of the gospel message by which believers are born again. In a world of constant change and uncertainty, God's word provides an immovable foundation.

Historical Context

Isaiah ministered during political upheaval when nations rose and fell rapidly. His message emphasized that human kingdoms, no matter how powerful, are temporary—but God's word endures eternally. This truth sustained Israel through Babylonian exile and has encouraged believers through every subsequent age. The preservation of Scripture itself through millennia, despite attempts to destroy it, testifies to this promise's reliability.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the eternal nature of God's word affect your daily decisions and long-term priorities?
2. In what areas are you tempted to trust temporary, 'grass-like' things rather than God's enduring promises?

Interlinear Text

יָבֵשׁ	דִּבְרֵי יֵרֹקֶה	נֶבֶל	צִיָּח	וְדִבְרֵי	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	יָקִימוּ
withereth	The grass	fadeth	the flower	but the word	of our God	shall stand
H3001	H2682	H5034	H6731	H1697	H430	H6965

לְעוֹלָם:
for ever
H5769

Additional Cross-References

Mark 13:31 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

1 Peter 1:25 (Word): But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Matthew 24:35 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

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.

John 10:35 (Word): If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

Isaiah 59:21 (Word): As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not

depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Zechariah 1:6 (Word): But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

John 12:34 (Word): The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

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