

Psalms 103:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

Analysis

Human life is 'as grass' and flourishes 'as a flower of the field,' emphasizing transience and fragility. This botanical metaphor (used also in Isa 40:6-8, 1 Pet 1:24) contrasts human mortality with God's eternity. Days ('yamim) plural emphasizes that even accumulated years amount to brief existence. Yet Scripture values this brief life highly when lived for God's glory. Christ's resurrection promises that though our bodies are like grass, believers will receive immortal, glorious bodies (1 Cor 15:42-44).

Historical Context

In Palestine's climate, grass and wildflowers grow rapidly with spring rains but wither quickly in summer heat. This familiar cycle provided a powerful metaphor for life's brevity that the original audience immediately understood.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does contemplating life's brevity shape your priorities and use of time?

2. What eternal investments are you making that will outlast your grass-like existence?

Interlinear Text

אֶנֶשׁ	כְּחֹצֵר יֵר	יָמֵי יוֹ	כַּצֵּיץ	הַ שָׂדֶה	כִּי	יִצְיֹץ:
H376	are as grass	his days	as a flower	of the field	H3651	so he flourisheth
	H2682	H3117	H6731	H7704		H6692

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 1:24 (Parallel theme): 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:

Isaiah 51:12 (Parallel theme): I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

Isaiah 28:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

Nahum 1:4 (Parallel theme): He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

Isaiah 28:4 (Parallel theme): And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, and as the hasty fruit before the summer; which when he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he eateth it up.