

JAMES (4:11-17)

Lesson 21: The Brevity of Life / Accountability of Knowledge

29 May 2020

Vs 14 What is your life? Your life is very brief in comparison to eternity. God's definition of "a little while" (Hebrews 10:37) is at least 2,000 years. Our life is fleeting like a vapor; here today, gone tomorrow.

Job 17:13 At the end of our short life, there is a grave waiting. We ought to do something useful with our lives before we die (2 Kings 7:3), preferably for the Lord.

Job 7:7 My life is wind.

Job 7:6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle.

Job 7:1 Man has a limited number of days to live, just like a hireling comes and then goes.

Job 8:8-10 Our days upon earth are a shadow. We know very little about individuals of the past.

Job 9:25-26 My days are swifter than a post (courier).

My days pass away as the swift ships.

My days are as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.

Job 13:25 Life is compared to a leaf on a tree.

Job 14:10 Man dies, then where is he? It has always been suspected that the soul goes on, but anyone who believes the Bible knows the answer to this question.

Job 30:15 Life moves on just like the weather.

Isaiah 40:6-8 Life is like grass that withers and flowers that fade away.

1 Chron 29:15 No one will abide on this earth forever. We're all strangers and sojourners.

Vs 15 In light of the fact that your life is so brief, you need to remember to trust the Lord in all that you do, or plan to do, and make those plans according to His will. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

- Don't claim the victory before the battle (1 Kings 20:11).
 - Don't boast prematurely (Prov 27:1).
 - Peter learned this the hard way (Mt 26:33-35,75).
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Vs 16 People get excited and boast about their plans.

- Such boasting is evil because you're trusting yourself rather than the Lord.
 - You're leaning on your own understanding and ignoring God's direction (Prov 3:5-6).
 - God gives us abilities to serve Him.
 - We need to remember where those abilities are coming from or it could easily turn to boasting.
 - Remember that you're a vapor, here today, gone tomorrow.
 - You need the Lord if you ever hope to accomplish anything for Him with your fragile life.
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Vs 17 This verse ties this passage on judging together with the word "therefore." Don't speak evil of the brethren (vs 11), don't be a judge (vs 12), don't boast about your plans (vs 13), remember how brief your life is—BECAUSE—you don't know how much light the other person has. They may not know what you know about right and wrong, good and evil.

- If they don't know it is sin according to God's Law, then it isn't a transgression (1 Jn 3:4).
 - Guilt comes with the knowledge of sin, and God's Law concerning sin (Rom 7:7-9).
 - Salvation never came by keeping the Law. It is impossible for sinful man to keep the Law.
 - The Law revealed our need of a Savior (Gal 3:23-24) to save us by grace through faith, without works (Eph 2:8-9).
 - The more you know the Bible, the more you'll be accountable.
 - On judgment day, you'll be responsible for what you did or didn't do according to your knowledge of God's word.
 - Judge yourself (1 Tim 5:24)
 - Let God judge the brethren (Rom 14:10).
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