



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL

October 31
2013

Man is Nothing

The Memory Verse for this week is from Isaiah 40: **"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8 ESV).**

The context for this verse is a contrast between God's awesome nature, power, and authority and the power, authority, and nature mankind believes man has. The subject is Jesus, for He is the Word (John 1:1) and the Scriptures contain His Word—the Gospel (or good news) of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1: 25).

As an introduction to the Memory Verse: *"All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass"* (Isaiah 40:7). What do we think of when we think of grass? Certainly not the might of nations! Do we look out over the world with its skyscrapers, suburbs, and power plants and see prairies billowing in the wind? Yet this is the nature of man as it stands before God and before His Word—the very thing contained in your home, if you have a Bible. Understand here what God is saying: the Word of Scripture is eternal and will outlive everything and everyone, including every thought and knowledge of man. Who do we think we are, that we glory in our creativity and our power?

We are less than nothing: *"All the nations are as nothing before Him, they are accounted by Him as less than nothing and emptiness"* (Isaiah 40:17). Is this how we as Believers view the world around us today? Is this how we see the nations of the earth with their industrial powerhouses, guided missile destroyers, shock-and-awe airpower, and weapons of mass destruction?

Most people on the planet stand in awe or dread about what man is capable of accomplishing. They rush to make allegiances with those in power, in order to live long on the earth. We live in dizzying times when the nations of the earth climb into space on rockets, communicate anytime and anywhere on the planet, level mountains for coal, and build ships 1/3 of a mile long out of pure steel to conquer the oceans and bring oil to the nations.

We look back with pride at all we've accomplished and glory in our knowledge and ingenuity. We revel in the future glory we may be able to accomplish, foolishly believing we will conquer hunger, poverty, death, and the heavens themselves.

Yet, all of this awesomeness is a drop in the bucket, dust on the scales (Isaiah 40:15) in God's eyes—even less than emptiness.

The "Word of our God," the Gospel, however, IS something—more than something. The Word of God is God's immeasurable gift to us—it contains the power of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, if we heed its call to repentance of our sin and accept Jesus as our King. This Word will still stand when the earth is dust and the great might of man is dissolved into fire (2 Peter 3:9-13).

If we are Children of God, then we must imitate our Heavenly Father and learn to see the world as God sees the world: less than nothing with no future. We must learn to cherish our Father's Word, which is the only thing in our physical possession that will last forever. Thank the Lord we have His eternal Spirit in us, testifying in us that we are the Children of God and will live forever with Him (Romans 8:16).

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).