

September 27, 2009  
"LIFE IS SHORT", *Daily Disciple*, page 279



**Psalm 39:4-5**

- <sup>4</sup> "Show me, O LORD, my life's end  
and the number of my days;  
let me know how fleeting is my life.
- <sup>5</sup> You have made my days a mere handbreadth;  
the span of my years is as nothing before you.  
Each man's life is but a breath.  
Selah"

**MEDITATION**

"How short our life! How vast is eternity! We have but a little time allowed us to make preparations for an eternal home—but a little time to profit our fellow creatures. We have no time allowed for angry debates, wrangling, and disputation. It is high time to awake out of sleep, and to shake ourselves from the defiling dust of past ages. Let us endeavor to pluck our poor, blind fellows, as brands from the burning. Let self sink at the feet of Jesus. Let him, and his glory, and the salvation of souls be your polar star." [Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger*, 1841, p. 260].

**SCRIPTURE**

- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out."  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
"All men are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.
- <sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.
- <sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God stands forever." [Isaiah 40:6-8]

## PRAYER

“Lord, let me know the brevity of my life so I might live to the fullest! This day may I fill each moment with service to you and to others.”

### Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. Read Psalm 39:4-5 and discuss the following:
  - a. What would you say is the entire theme of Psalm 39?
  - b. How do verses 4 and 5 fit into this overall context?
  - c. What two images does the Psalmist use to demonstrate the brevity of life?
2. Barton W. Stone, in his meditation above, has some wonderful insights into the brevity of life.
  - a. According to this meditation, we have a little time to do what?
  - b. What do we have no time for?
  - c. Is it easy to get caught up in the very things that will matter little or nothing in view of eternity?
  - d. What did Stone mean by this phrase: *“to shake ourselves from the defiling dust of past ages”*?
  - e. *“Let us endeavor to pluck our poor, blind fellows, as brands from the burning.”*
    - 1) Here, the author is trying to help us focus on what is important during the little time we have left on earth.
    - 2) Compare this with Jude 22,23: *“<sup>22</sup>Be merciful to those who doubt; <sup>23</sup>snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.*
    - 3) What does this mean for us today?
3. Read Isaiah 40:6-8. We find a contrast between the frailty of human life and what?
4. What are human beings compared to?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:24, 25—why does Peter quote Isaiah 40:6-8? What is the point he is trying to make?
6. Read James 4:13-17. What does James compare life to?
7. Be creative in your group and compare life to something that is transitory, fragile or demonstrates brevity. Does this give you a new appreciation for how short life is?
8. If we pray for the Lord to “let us know the brevity of my life,” he do you think he might answer that?
9. Discuss the connection between one’s awareness of the brevity of life and the commitment one makes to serving God and fellowman?
10. We often forget how fragile life is. Look up the word “evanescent” and then discuss this sentence: *“Human life is as evanescent as morning mist.”*
11. Talk about the sense of urgency that ought to permeate our Christian life if indeed we are aware of the brevity of life.
12. Can you think of other ideas or scriptures that might come into play when discussing the brevity of life?
13. What difference will this lesson make in your life this week?