

## On Borrowed Time

“Come now, ye that say, Today or to-morrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that” (James 4:13-15).

Mankind has a natural inclination of believing that tomorrow will bring another day, week, month and year. Mankind believes that they have control over the events of their lives and will be able to do what they want, when they want, and all without the consideration of God’s active part in their lives.

Making preparation for the moment in which each will stand before the Creator should be of utmost importance to all. The Apostle Paul said, “For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). The individuals to whom James wrote were arrogantly boasting in presumption that their future was certain, without any regard to the Lord.

King David, once said, “Jehovah, make me to know mine end, And the measure of my days, what it is; Let me know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as handbreadths; And my lifetime is as nothing before thee: Surely every man at his best estate is altogether vanity” (Psalms 39:4-5). In David’s analogy of life, he refers to a “handbreadth” that is “any unit of length based on the breadth of the human hand” or the width of the palm of the hand. The analogy emphasizes the shortness of life, which agrees with the statement of James, saying, “ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time.”

Although mankind gives little attention to the fact that today may be one’s last, when that distant day becomes reality, the life will be, as it were, a vapor that appeared “for a little time” and then vanished away. On that day, which will come upon all men, “There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power over the day of death” (Eccl. 8:8). ret