

SIMILE OF IMPERISHABLE WORD

During the month of September, we will study four figures of speech used in the NT to teach the importance of the application of the word of God. **The meaning is in the literal while the application is in the figure.**

A figure of speech is a word or phrase that is used to communicate something more colorfully than its literal or original meaning and use.

A figure of speech expresses a doctrinal truth in an interesting way by anticipating uninformed listeners in attention in order to catch their attention and aid in their retention.

Today's figure of speech is the **simile** used in our lesson text. A simile is designed to emphasize the similarity or comparison by resemblance between two things.

This lesson will study five aspects of the Simile of the Imperishable Word of God.

1. A simile is usually identified by the English words "like" or "as." Can you find the two similes in our lesson text?

- All flesh (sarx) **as** (hos) [comparison] grass (chortos) [wild grass].
- All glory of her (doxa) **as** (hos) flower (anthos) [wild flower]. (1 Pet.1:24a)

This is a quote taken from Isa.40:6-8. Can you find the similes or comparisons?

Find the similes or comparisons in the following passages 1 Pet.5:8-11 and James 1:5-8.

Recently we studied the use of similes in a parable or a similitude parable in the Two Builders of Matt.7:24-27.

Sometimes a simile may be repeated to emphasize the comparison of one thing with other things. Bullinger called this a syncrisis simile. It is used in Isa.1:18 – "Though your sins are **as** scarlet, they (sins) will be as white **as** snow; Though they (sins) are red **like** crimson, they (sins) will be **like** wool."

2. Remember that a simile figure of speech is designed to teach the importance of the application of a doctrinal truth.

What were the similes or comparisons in **1 Pet.1:24**? All Flesh _____ and All glory _____

- The grass **withers**, and the flower **falls off**. But the word of the Lord abides **forever**. And this is the word which we preached to you" (1 Pet.1:24b-25)

What is the doctrinal point of the simile? All flesh _____ and All glory _____ But the word of God abides _____ - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My word shall not pass away." (Matt.24:35)

3. The introduction of our similes in 1 Pet.1:23 are very important to the doctrinal truth of this simile.

(1 Pet. 1:23) "For **you have been born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable that is, through the living and abiding word of God."

The Greek word for seed is sporos. In our simile, it is used with the idea of the perishable seed of the wild grass and wild flowers of unregenerate humanity.

Unregenerate humanity is in need of being born again (anagennao / perf.p.ptc nplm) by the imperishable, living, and eternal abiding word of God (1 Pet.1:23-25; John 6:68).

Born again is by the power of the gospel of grace salvation in Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. “**Gospel** is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” (Rom.1:16b; 1Cor.15:3-4; Eph.2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7).

“That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” (John 3:6-7)

4. **Without spiritual regeneration [being born again] (1 Pet.1:23), all human souls, made in the image and likeness of God [tselem demuth] (Gen.1:26), are destined to wither and fall away from God for all eternity because of Adam’s original sin (AOS).**

“For in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.” (1 Cor.15:22; Rom.5:12-21; Gen.2:17; 3:6, 11)

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a **gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” (Rom.3:23-24)

AOS is the literal reason that the grass withers and the flowers fall (Gen.3:17-18) – “For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it.” (Rom.8:20/ 8:18-25)

5. **Because the Word of God is imperishable, living and eternally abiding, it has the power to save eternally everyone who believes.**

“**Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**” (John 5:24; John 3:16; 1 Pet.1:23-25)

“And this is the word which was preached to you.” (1 Pet.1:25b)

“For **the word of God** is alive [living] and powerful [active], sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow and is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Heb.4:12)

SIMILES

(Ps.103:15-16) “As for man, his days are **like** grass; **as** a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more; and its place acknowledges it no longer.”

(Job 14:1-2) “Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. **Like** a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees **like** a shadow and does not remain.”

(James 1:10-11) “And let the rich man glory in his humiliation, because **like** a flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and it flower fall off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.”