

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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As The Life Of A Flower

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In the late 1800's, a lady poet was born in New Marlborough Connecticut during the month of February of 1854. She was orphaned at an early age; and after being adopted by her aunt and uncle, she moved to Kansas to become known as the “Sweet singer of Kansas”. She was Laura E. Newell. Although she married and had six children, she still wrote thousands of poems, with many being set to music and becoming beautiful hymns. Most were about care and about bereavement. The hymn we will consider today is titled *As the Life of the Flower* and was set to music by the composer G.H. Ramsey.

In our song books this remarkable hymn is prefaced by the scripture: 1 Peter 1:24. Being good Bible students, we always use the verse before and the verse after the highlighted scripture for clarity and understanding. In 1 Peter 1:23 to 25 the Apostle Peter writes: *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

These verses tells us in such concise, uncomplicated, and straight-

forward wording that our Lord's teachings will stand the test of time and prevail over human wisdom. This knowledge should give us peace of mind. The things of this world will go away, but in His teachings, we find the lasting and continuing words of our salvation.

Although all verses of the song are heartfelt, we will highlight the third verse of Laura Newell's beautiful song. The finality of life is not only faced, but in light of the beauty and comfort of eternal life for those have listened to the Lord's teachings and acted upon His instructions She writes:

*“As we tarry below, let us trust and adore,
Him who leads us each day, toward that radiant shore,
Where the sun never sets, and the flowers never fade,
Where no sorrow nor death, may its borders invade”.*

Again, in our considerations of 1Peter, we contemplate that the glory of this earthly realm is short lived. We can even contemplate the demise of our mortal bodies but with the solace of the salvation we know that is available to us through the Gospel. We are aware, if we have fulfilled the mandates and decrees that the Lord has established for us, we will gain our salvation.

There are scriptures like Acts 2:38, where Peter replied to the crowd, *Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.* These scriptures instruct us on how we can one day be in a place “*where sun never sets, and the flowers never fade, where no sorrow, or death may its borders invade*”. We need to remember the Apostle Peter's words and the rest of the hymn *as the life of a flower.* As the life of a flower...

As the life of a flower, As a breath or sigh,
So the years that we live As a dream hasten by.
True, today we are here, But tomorrow must leave--
Just a grave in the vale And a memory of me.

As the life of a flower Be our lives pure and sweet.
May we brighten the way For the friends that we greet,
And sweet incense arise From our hearts as we live,
Close to Him who doth teach us To love and forgive.

Chorus: As the life of a flower,
As a breath or a sigh,
So the years glide away
And, alas, we must die.