

quoted by Peter at the end of the first chapter of 1 Peter word for word. The glory of man is like the flower of grass.

I think one of the great illustrations that I know of is what happened in the last few years in relation to the British empire. In 1897, Queen Victoria had her second ^{her diamond jubilee,} jubilee/~~27~~ celebrating 60 years of her reign. It was a tremendous occasion of glory and boasting. The sun never sets on the British Empire. There were British outposts on every continent. British colonies in every section of the world. British fleets keeping the sea-lanes open all through the world, and all the world was benefiting from all the glory of the British Empire. Everything was joy and jubilation except for one rather unsatisfactory note. A well known poet, Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem, and this poem was published in the London Times. It was called the Recessional. It irritated many people. It introduced a false note into the celebration of the glories of the British Empire. Actually Rudyard Kipling was 50 years ahead of his time. His poem was so out of accord with the general attitude that it appeared in the newspaper and was forgotten until 10 years later. He published a whole volume of poems with his Recessional as the last poem in the group. Today the poem sounds prophetic. You'd almost think that Rudyard Kipling seemed to look ahead 50 years and see what was happening. As late as 1914 the British Empire still seemed to be at the very apex of its glory. The end of World War I saw an Empire that was exhausted. But it gradually regained much of its power, and then in 1939 declared the second great World War. In 1945 Winston Churchill declared, "I did not become His Majesty's Chief Minister in order to preside at the liquidation (dissolution) of the British Empire." But Winston Churchill did not realize the changes that had taken place. And the British people perhaps realized it more than he did, because when he said he didn't want to preside at the