



## LIKE A VAPOR, “WE COME & GO.”

OCTOBER 23, 2023

**JAMES 4:13-14 NKJV – (13)** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow <sup>[a]</sup>we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; **(14)** whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

This verse sets up this point with a generic business plan. The problem here is not in making the plan—James doesn't go on to say that planning is sinful, or foolish. The problem James is relating, by using this example, is an attitude of self-reliance. "Tomorrow, I *will* do this or that." Verse 16 shows the attitude James intends behind the words of this verse. Making such a statement, out of confidence in one's own ability, and without humility, is unwise.

The context of the prior passage is important. James has been discussing the problem of following the thought process of the world, instead of the wisdom of God. Here, James imagines a businessman declaring how he will make more money, how he will get what he wants out of life. In context, this is meant to mean one who is planning according to the pattern of the world. This man is making plans and vowing to keep them in his own power and by the force of his own will.

That's not the life of dependence God calls His children to walk in.

**SCRIPTURE READING**  
**ECCLESIASTES 2:1**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Wisdom tells us, here today and gone tomorrow. Use your time wisely. (BOASTING, PRIORITIES)