

Hebrews 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

Analysis

Continuing the Psalm 102 quotation, this verse contrasts the permanence of Christ with the temporality of creation. The present tense 'apollountai' (they shall perish) emphasizes the certain decay of all created things. Reformed theology sees this as affirming God's sovereignty over all creation and Christ's eternity, which undergirds the doctrine of eternal security - if Christ endures forever, so do those united to Him.

Historical Context

The original psalm addressed Israel's exile, but Hebrews applies it to Christ, demonstrating the apostolic hermeneutic that sees Christ throughout the Old Testament. This typological reading was standard in first-century Jewish exegesis.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What comfort does Christ's eternality provide in a world of constant change?
2. How does the temporary nature of creation inform your view of material possessions?

Interlinear Text

αὐτοὶ	ἀπολοῦνται	σὺ	δὲ	διαμένεις	καὶ	πάντες	ὥς
They	shall perish	thou	but	remainest	and	they all	as
G846	G622	G4771	G1161	G1265	G2532	G3956	G5613
ἱμάτιον	παλαιωθήσονται						
doth a garment	shall wax old						
G2440	G3822						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:6 (Parallel theme): Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Isaiah 34:4 (Parallel theme): And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

Mark 13:31 (Parallel theme): Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Revelation 21:1 (Parallel theme): And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Matthew 24:35 (Parallel theme): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Luke 21:33 (Parallel theme): Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Hebrews 12:27 (Parallel theme): And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Isaiah 65:17 (Parallel theme): For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Psalms 10:16 (Parallel theme): The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.

Psalms 90:2 (Parallel theme): Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

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