

Isaiah 51:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The cosmic vision 'the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment' establishes creation's temporality versus God's eternal salvation. The contrast 'my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished' shows that God's spiritual work outlasts physical creation. This grounds hope in eternal realities, not temporal circumstances (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Historical Context

Peter quotes this in 2 Peter 3:10-13, describing new heavens and earth. The transience of current creation should relativize earthly concerns and heighten focus on eternal salvation that 'shall not be abolished.'

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How should creation's coming dissolution change your investment priorities between temporal and eternal?
2. What does it mean that God's righteousness 'shall not be abolished' while all creation passes away?

Interlinear Text

שָׁאוּ Lift up H5375	שָׁמַיִם beneath for the heavens H8064	עֵינֶיךָ your eyes H5869	וְהִבֵּי יָטוּ and look H5027	אֶל H413	וְהָאָרֶץ and the earth H776
מִתַּחַת H8478	כִּי H3588	שָׁמַיִם beneath for the heavens H8064	כְּעָשָׁן like smoke H6227	נִמָּלְאוּ shall vanish away H4414	
וְהָאָרֶץ and the earth H776	כַּבֶּגֶד like a garment H899	תִּבְלֶה shall wax old H1086	וַיֵּשְׁבוּ יֵה and they that dwell H3427	כִּמּוֹ in like H3644	כִּי H3651
יָמוֹת וְ therein shall die H4191	וַיְשׁוּעָתִי but my salvation H3444	לְעוֹלָם shall be for ever H5769	תָּהִי H1961	וְצִדְקָתִי and my righteousness H6666	
לֹא H3808	תִּקָּחַת shall not be abolished H2865				

Additional Cross-References

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

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.

Isaiah 51:8 (Salvation): For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

Isaiah 13:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Revelation 20:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Isaiah 40:26 (Parallel theme): Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

Deuteronomy 4:19 (Parallel theme): And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Daniel 9:24 (Righteousness): Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Hebrews 9:15 (Parallel theme): And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Isaiah 45:17 (Salvation): But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.