

Mark 13:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Analysis

Jesus proclaimed: 'Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away' (ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρελεύσονται). This contrasts temporary creation with eternal revelation. 'Heaven and earth'—the entire physical universe—will pass away (2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1). Yet Jesus' words endure forever. The double negative 'shall not pass away' (ou mē pareleusontai, οὐ μὴ παρελεύσονται) is strongest Greek negation—absolute impossibility. This claims divine authority—only God's word is eternal (Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:24-25). Jesus equated His words with God's eternal word, claiming deity. His teachings aren't culturally conditioned opinions but permanent divine revelation. Every prediction, promise, and command will be fulfilled. This grounds biblical authority and inerrancy—Scripture is God's eternal word, not human speculation.

Historical Context

Old Testament affirmed God's word's eternality: 'The grass withereth... but the word of our God shall stand for ever' (Isaiah 40:8). Jesus applied this to His own teaching, claiming His words share God's eternal nature. This was implicit claim to deity—only God's word is eternal. Early church recognized this, preserving and copying Jesus' teachings with utmost care. Gospel writing aimed to record accurately 'that which was from the beginning' (1 John 1:1). The New Testament canon development sought to identify apostolic writings carrying Jesus' authority. Church fathers cited Jesus' words as final authority. Reformation principle sola

scriptura elevated Scripture as supreme authority. Modern critical scholarship questions Bible's reliability; Jesus' claim that His words are eternal contradicts this skepticism. If Jesus' words are eternal, Scripture recording them carries divine authority.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' claim that His words are more permanent than the physical universe reveal about His identity and authority?
2. How does this verse ground confidence in Scripture's reliability and authority as God's eternal word?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	οὐρανὸς	καὶ	ἡ	γῆ	παρέλθωσιν	οἱ	δὲ	λόγοι
G3588	Heaven	and	G3588	earth	pass away	G3588	but	words
	G3772	G2532		G1093	G3928		G1161	G3056
μου	οὐ	μὴ	παρέλθωσιν					
my	G3756	G3361	pass away					
G3450			G3928					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:8 (Word): The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

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.

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

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

Matthew 5:18 (Word): For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Psalms 19:7 (Word): The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Numbers 23:19 (Parallel theme): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

2 Timothy 2:13 (Parallel theme): If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.