

Matthew 24:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Jesus declares ultimate permanence: 'Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away' (Greek: ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσεται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσιν, 'heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away'). The double negative οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσιν intensifies certainty. Creation itself is temporal, but Jesus' words are eternal. This astounding claim asserts divine authority - only God's word endures forever (Isaiah 40:8). In eschatological discourse about end times, Jesus grounds confidence in His teaching's absolute reliability. His words are more certain than physical reality.

Historical Context

Jewish thought emphasized Torah's eternal validity. Jesus applies this permanence to His own teaching, implicitly claiming divine authority. 2 Peter 3:10-13 describes heavens passing away, new creation coming. Jesus' words will outlast even the cosmos. Early Christians faced persecution, false teaching, and cultural pressure, but anchored faith in Jesus' abiding words. Two thousand years later, His words remain authoritative while empires and philosophies have disappeared. This verse grounds confidence in Scripture's enduring truthfulness.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that Jesus' words are more permanent than creation itself?
2. How should this promise affect our approach to Scripture?
3. What gives you more security - physical circumstances or Jesus' promises?

Interlinear Text

ο	ούρανὸς	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.

1 Peter 1:25 (Word): But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

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?

Isaiah 55:11 (Word): So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

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.

Proverbs 30:5 (Word): Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

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 54:10 (Parallel theme): For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

Psalms 89:34 (Parallel theme): My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Titus 1:2 (Parallel theme): In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;