

Matthew 5:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

Analysis

Jesus continues closing loopholes: earth is God's footstool, Jerusalem is God's city, even your own head (you can't make one hair change color by will alone). Everything belongs to God and reflects His authority. Therefore, speak truth always, not just when formally swearing.

Historical Context

Jerusalem was called 'the city of the great King' (Psalm 48:2). Jewish teachers allowed swearing by Jerusalem as less serious than swearing by God's name. Jesus says this distinction is false—Jerusalem is God's city, making such oaths as binding as any other.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's ownership of all things affect your speech and commitments?
2. What areas of life do you treat as 'secular' or separate from God's authority?

Interlinear Text

μήτε ἐν τῇ γῇ ὅτι ὑποπόδιόν ἐστὶν τῶν ποδῶν
Nor by the earth for G5286 it is G3588 footstool
G3383 G1722 G1093 G3754 G5286 G2076 G4228

αὐτοῦ μήτε εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ὅτι πόλις ἐστὶν τοῦ
his Nor by Jerusalem for the city it is G3588
G846 G3383 G1519 G2414 G3754 G4172 G2076

μεγάλου βασιλέως
of the great King
G3173 G935

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 48:2 (Kingdom): Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Revelation 21:10 (References Jerusalem): And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Psalms 99:5 (Parallel theme): Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

Malachi 1:14 (Kingdom): But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

Revelation 21:2 (References Jerusalem): And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

2 Chronicles 6:6 (References Jerusalem): But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel.