

# 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

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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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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

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

μεγάλου βασιλέως  
**of the great** **King**  
<sup>G3173</sup> <sup>G935</sup>

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.