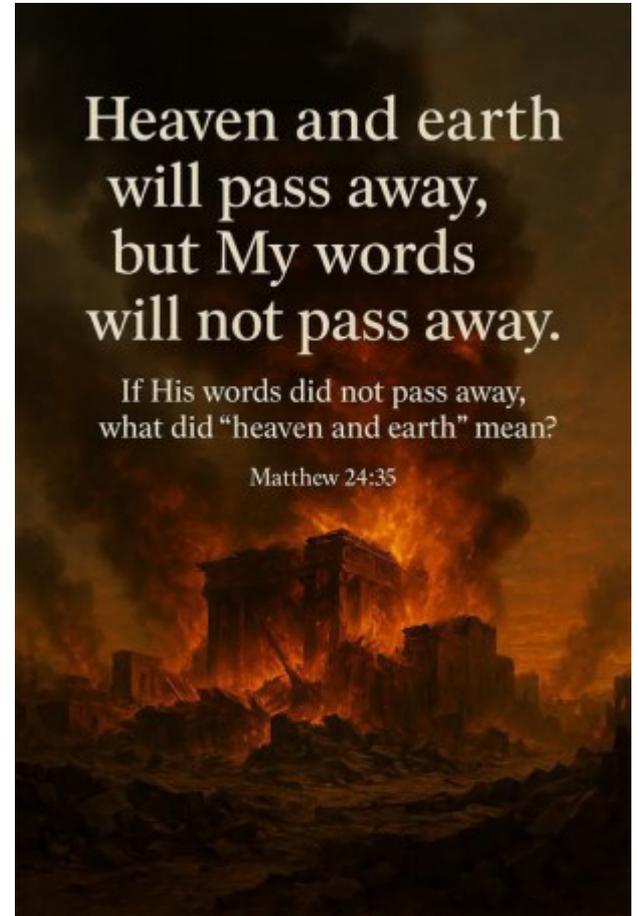


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Heaven and Earth - When Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35, NASB), He was not referring to the physical heavens and earth.



By Dan Maines

When Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35, NASB), He was not referring to the physical heavens and earth. In the fulfilled view, "heaven and earth" often symbolizes the Old Covenant system — the temple, the priesthood, and the nation of Israel under the Law.

Let's look at some scriptural support:

Isaiah 51:15-16 – God speaks of planting the heavens and laying the foundations of the earth when He gave His law to His people, showing a covenantal usage of the phrase.

Deuteronomy 31:28-30 – Moses calls heaven and earth as witnesses against Israel in the covenant, again showing symbolic use tied to the Law.

Hebrews 12:26-28 – The writer speaks of a shaking not just of the earth but of heaven, so that what cannot be shaken (the New Covenant) may remain. That implies the old was being removed.

So when Jesus said "Heaven and earth will pass away", He was speaking of the Old Covenant world, which did pass away in 70 AD when the temple was destroyed and the Law system ended. His words, the New Covenant, would never pass away.

In short:

"Heaven and earth" = Old Covenant Israel.

Jesus' words = the New Covenant.

One passed away, the other stands forever.

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