Matthew 24:35 And the KJV Plain English

Timothy Neal
Wednesday January 2, 2008

Tweet

(Note - This post resumes and concludes an exegetical treatment of Matthew 24:35 that was begun here. Note also that my translation is based on the 1769 version of the KJV. Reasons for this and more about how we use the passage. Note also that I wrote this before I had read Brandon ;s "They Shall Not Pass Away" which is a blessing of having intellectual friends. I didn't want to overdo by an or two. Finally, note that this essay doesn't include the more detailed footnotes, references, and citations that can be found in the larger essay here.)

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

Ουρανὸς καὶ γῆ παρελεύσονται,
οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρελεύσωσιν

We come now to the phrase which is the particular focus of our study. Those who use the phrase to support the doctrine of preservation have almost always left ignored the context in which it is found. This context is never even mentioned in their proof-texting, let alone worked with in their interpretation of the phrase. We will see that the context of Matthew 24 is absolutely crucial to understanding the phrase and how the interpretation of the phrase in an exegetically sensitive way. The Bible is itself immensely worthy of time lavished on it, and the context of the words of Jesus is no exception.

Heaven and earth shall pass away

Jesus' clear and unmistakable claim in the statement, "My words shall not pass away" is in effect the certainty of this prediction. He does this by way of a rhetorical contrast with the certainty of the disappearance of the cosmos, and by introducing the statement with a parenthetical "I say unto you shall not pass" (I use wanes to read only these three phrases, entirely apart from their context in the sentence, to mean "I say unto you, truly, I say unto you, truly, I say unto you, truly,

to be a liar in order to have one more proof text to support one's pet Greek text or English translation.

I for one will do none of these things. I will be more careful than that with the Bible I love. If we love the Bible as we claim, and if we love the Jesus who it presents, who is Truth Incarnate, then we must discontinue these misuses of this passage and its parallels. This passage (as well as its parallels in Mark 13:31 and Luke 21:33) can no longer be a part of our doctrinal statements on preservation. They can no longer be part of our presentation of this doctrine. In order to continue to use the passages this way, one would have to make a convincing, exegetically sensitive case that a preservation interpretation could even be possible. Further, one would have to refute each of the points made in this paper. This would require extensive exegetical work which has to my knowledge never been done. To continue to use these passages in such a way before this work is done, and such an interpretation could be shown plausible, is simply mishandling the text. Those who would so knowingly mishandle the Word of God dare not claim from the other side of their mouths that they love the Bible more than those of use who refuse to so abuse Scripture.

If You Enjoyed it, Share This Blog!

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

And Subscribe to The Blog Here!

Blog RSS

SEE ALSO

How The Gospel Reshapes Your Worth...
The church does just tolerate...

Single Not Dead: A Holy Handling Of The Single...
The possession of your sex...

Jesus > The Bible (Part 2)
Jesus is the core of the...

0 Comments

Sort by Oldest

Add a comment...

Facebook Comments plugin

Exegesis	Bible	Kjv
Kjvo	Kjv Only	Textual Criticism
Gifts	Gospel	Fundamentalism
Preservation	Resurrection	Textus Receptus
Reformation	Luther	Neo-Fundamentalism
New Testament	Tongues	Apologetics
Church History	Eschatology	Kingdom
Tr Only	Tyndale	Apostolic Fathers
Commentaries	Easter	Gospels
Jesus	Luke	Sex
The Shire	Theology	Tr
Anabaptist	English Bible	Holy Week
Inaugurated Eschatology	King James Bible	King James Only
Lord Of The Rings	Luke-Acts	Missions
Objections To Christianity	Preaching	Protestant
Single	Singleness	Slander
Slavery	Song Of Songs	Technical Commentaries
Textual Essays	Translation	Acts
Already/Not Yet	Anabaptists	Apostles
Bible Study	Biblical Commentaries	Burgon
Ccm	Charismatic	Charity
Christmas	Christology	Chronology Of The Life Of Christ
Church History \	Contemporary Issues	Cross
Cursing	D. A. Carson	Demonization
Die Hard	Doctrine Of Preservation	End Times
Exegesos	Exegsis	Faith
Fathers	Fundamentaism	Gordon Fee
Gospel Contradictions	Greek	Hands
Historical Jesus	Historical Theology	History
Homosexuality	Journal Of Travels	Kingdom Chronicles
Kingdom Of God	Kjvonly	Lewis
Liturgy	Marriage	Matthew
Mattthew	Minimal Facts	Music
Nt	Oh My God	Omg
Paraphrase	Pastor	Paul
Philosophy	Polycarp	Praying
Psalms	Radicals	Reformers
Satire	Sermon Notes	Sex Drive
Sexuality	Single Life	Singles
Spiritual Gifts	Spirituality	Strongs
Synoptic Problem	Taking The Lords Name In Vain	Tattoo
Text	The Doctrine Of Preservation	The Power Of The Tongue
The Singer	Translation Methods	Tro
Webster's	William Tyndale	Word Studies
Words	Worship	

Preacher_of_the_word@hotmail.com

Student, Preacher, Teacher

Like 0

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn