

I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God IN KING JESUS. (Philippians 3:14)

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Kingdom of God: Jesus Fulfilled It All

Do not think that I came to annul [demolish, destroy] the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to annul [demolish, destroy], but to fulfill [fill up; make full; make come true; to complete]. Truly I say to you [tell you the truth], **Until the heaven and the earth pass away**, in no way shall one iota [jot] or one point [tittle] pass away [disappear] from the Law until all [everything] comes to pass [accomplished; be fulfilled]. (Matthew 5:17-18 compilation)

Now He said to them, “These are My words, which I speak to you, still being with you, for **all must be fulfilled that is written in the law of Moses and the prophets and psalms concerning Me.**” (Luke 24:44 CLV [bold added])

With great clarity, Jesus told those of the covenant given through Moses that He came to fulfill all the law and the prophets. He came into the land of Judah as the Messiah and God of Israel, and He alone did what the sons of Israel failed to do under the law—that is, fulfill it to the jot and tittle. It was *the time of fulfillment of all that has been written* (Luke 21: 20, 22) by the prophets, including the end of the heaven and earth order of Moses and the birthing of the new heaven and a new earth order of Christ, as prophesied through Isaiah.

Jesus made it abundantly clear: *Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place* (Matthew 24:34). This generation consisted of those living in the first century. This is key because He did not put this fulfillment out thousands of years for a future generation, as some might have it. It was imminent in the first century.

Throughout scripture, heaven and earth are referred to literally or figuratively. When Jesus stated that heaven and earth would not pass away *until*, He meant it in the figurative sense, not the literal. We know this is true for that generation has passed away and the same physical heaven and earth are still with us.

When referring to one *kosmos*—orderly arrangement (i.e., social order, political order, or spiritual order in a city, a nation, a region, or the entire world)—passing away and another being established, the prophets often described such changes in catastrophic cosmic terms that obviously did not occur historically in a literal, physical sense. Trace it out and you will discover that scripture speaks of catastrophic events occurring with the heavens involving the sun, the moon, and the stars, along with the earth.

For example: Ezekiel described the **destruction of Egypt** by the Babylonians around 580 BC in this way: *When I blot you out, I will cover the heavens and make their stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over you, and put darkness on your land, declares the Lord GOD.* (Ezekiel 32:7-8). The **destruction of Babylon** by the Medes in 539 BC is described in similar language: *For the stars of the heavens and their constellations shall not give light; the sun shall be darkened in its going forth, and the moon shall not reflect its light* (Isaiah 13:10). Consider how **the fall of Edom** is described: *All the host of the heavens shall decay [rot; dissolve], and rolled up as a scroll are the heavens, and all their host shall decay as decays the leaf from the vine, and as a decaying leaf from the fig tree* (Isaiah 34:4). There are other examples, but of most relevance to Jesus' declaration is how Israel is spoken of by the prophets. For this, Isaiah clearly comes to the forefront.

“For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea and its waves roar (the LORD of hosts is His name). I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’” (Isaiah 51:15-16 NASB)

In describing Israel being called out of Egypt through the parting of the Red Sea and establishing a covenant with them through Moses, the Lord referred to it as establishing the heavens and founding the earth. Obviously, this cannot refer to the physical heavens and earth that already existed. Thus, it must refer to what was established between the Lord and the sons of Israel at Sinai—framed in the symbolic language of heaven and earth. A new spiritual order came into being that altered the orderly earthly arrangement of nations.

Significant to Jesus' declaration is what Isaiah later recorded from the Lord.

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.” (Isaiah 65:17 ESV)

In other words, the order originally established with physical Israel would one day be remembered no more, for it would pass away, replaced with a new order described as new heavens and a new earth. That day came in the first century AD as confirmed by Hebrews that was written prior to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish temple.

In speaking of **a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete**. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (Hebrews 8:13 ESV [bold added])

The old covenant had become like an old, worn-out garment. Jesus came to earth to close that one out and inaugurate a new one based on making all things new and in love. Starting at the cross and leading up to 66-70 AD, the Mosaic covenant of the law and the prophets was becoming obsolete, getting ready to vanish. It was old and shaken! Thus, the two covenants existed simultaneously when Hebrews (and Revelation) was written. It was necessary for the Hebrews to come out of all that was of Moses and come unto all that was of Christ—"come outside the camp" was the call. Jerusalem, the temple, and biblical Judaism itself was about to be shaken until nothing was left of it. The old heaven and earth were about to be shaken by the Roman army the Lord was sending their way as judgment for their rejection and crucifixion of the Messiah of Israel. By 70 AD, the shaking was complete and nothing was left of the old heaven and earth order that had come forth at Sinai. Stated another way: the cross and the destruction of Jerusalem shook the temple, the Levitical priesthood (the old heaven), and the Judahites and their place in the economy of God (the old earth). A new temple and priesthood came forth made up of living stones, no longer dependent on bloodline or pedigree. A new earth, a spiritual one, came forth, begotten of God and filled with His spirit called *the body of Christ*.

For over 1950 years, there has been no sign of this old heaven and earth order. The law is not practiced, for there is no physical temple and no animal sacrifices to fulfill it, and, contrary to the Christian Zionists, there never will be, at least as far as God is concerned. Is this not what Isaiah foretold?

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 become old like a garment, and its inhabitants shall die in like manner:** but My salvation is to the age [eon], and My righteousness is not broken [abolished]. (Isaiah 51:6 compilation)

This is what one does with a worn-out garment that no longer serves its original purpose. Surely, many of the inhabitants of Judea and Jerusalem died from 66-70 AD as they held tightly to the rags of the old order.

It's a sad commentary on the nominal church of our day that holds to a hybrid of the old and the new. As Jesus warned: *No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old* (Luke 5:36). Many are wearing a mis-matched garment (i.e., covenant hybrid).

Now, there is one more point to be made. Much like Hebrews, John's Revelation is about the old heaven and earth passing away and the new heaven and the new earth taking its place. In his highly symbolic vision, John saw the Jerusalem of his day (Paul's *present* Jerusalem) being judged and destroyed, meaning the old heaven and earth passed away, and New Jerusalem came into view as part of a new heaven and new earth.

And I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea no longer is. And I, John, saw the holy city, **New Jerusalem**, coming down out of Heaven from God, having been prepared as a bride, having been adorned for her Husband. (Revelation 21:1-2 LITV)

If we can agree that the old was the first covenant (Mosaic one) and it passed away in fire by September 70 AD with the total destruction of the earthly Jerusalem and its temple, then it only follows that the new heaven and new earth order that came into view can be none other than the new covenant established by Jesus. The Lord inaugurated a new spiritual order that would alter the world or earthly order. Has this not taken place as the good news of salvation and the good news of the kingdom have gone forth throughout the earth? Surely, it has!

Jesus said He came to fulfill all that was prophesied about Him and all for which the old covenant stood. Where the ancient sons of Israel utterly failed in fulfilling their part of the covenant, Jesus gloriously succeeded. In other words, He fulfilled everything that Israel was meant to fulfill but failed to do so, down to the last jot and tittle. ***It is finished!*** It could be said—although some probably won't like it or agree with it—that Jesus closed the book on the entirety of the old heaven and earth. There is nothing there to return to; it is no more. This means that the ancient prophecies have been fulfilled, as well, and except being repeated, in some measure, in principle only, they provide **no direct, unfulfilled link** to events that have occurred after 70 AD.

Why? Because with the final nail in the coffin of the old Jerusalem and all that it had stood for and had become in Jesus' day, the announcement went forth from the one who sat on the throne of God then and has continually sat upon it ever since.

And he who was seated on the throne said, **“Behold, I am making all things new.”** And He is saying to me, “Write this down, for these words are faithful ones and true ones.” (Revelation 21:5 compilation)

With His death, resurrection, ascension, and glorification, King Jesus has been making all things new, as He heads up all things in heaven and on earth. There are no old or former things in God's plan to achieve His ultimate purpose. The new heaven and the new earth and New Jerusalem have been in existence for nearly 2,000 years. We, who believe, are New Jerusalem. This is the Kingdom of God where the will of God manifests all that is new.

The Kingdom of the Son of God's love is all about making all things new! It's time to lay hold of this truth, for God is getting ready to bring us into the Reality of the new heaven and the new earth that have been growing within our earthen vessels since we were first given the faith to believe. It is called the Life and Love of the Son of God!