

# Thesis on the Heaven and Earth in Matthew 5:17-18

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First, we must establish and dispel the theories of a physical destruction of the Earth. Mainstream Christianity believes that one day God will destroy this world because of the wickedness that seems to be escalating to an apex. We will first show Scripturally that God will not indeed destroy the physical earth as we know it, and what exactly is the Bible referring to when it says 'Heaven and Earth shall pass away'. Let's take a look at the Scriptures to support this doctrine.

When approaching this subject, one must put on their spiritual understanding of Biblical language. We may say that the entire Bible is literal, but any Biblical Scholar or Student would rapidly get himself or herself in heavy theological trouble. God has used Symbolism, Metaphorical language, parabolic language, types & shadow.

Gen 8:20-22

20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, **I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.**

22 **While** the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night **shall not cease.**

OT:5750 `owd **WHILE** (ode); or `od (ode); from OT:5749; properly, iteration or **continuance**;

I've heard many a preacher say that this Scripture refers to God would not destroy the Earth with a flood of water again, but one must write into the Bible to proclaim that belief, for there isn't any denotation to a flood at all, nor does it suggest a flood of water. Let's go on!

Eccl 1:3-4

3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

4 One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: **but the earth abideth for ever.**

Here is another supporting Scripture for the earth abiding, continuing, remaining, and not changing.

Ps 78:65-69

65 Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.

66 And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach.

67 Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim:

68 But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.

69 And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, **like the earth which he hath established for ever.**

Ps 93:1 The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: **the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.**

Ps 104:1-5

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:

3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

**5 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.**

Ps 119:89-90

89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

90 Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

Ps 148:1-6

1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

3 Praise ye him, **sun** and **moon**: praise him, all ye **stars** of light.

4 Praise him, ye **heavens** of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.

6 He hath also **stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.**

Ps 72:17 **His NAME shall endure for ever: his NAME shall be continued as long as the SUN**: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.

Isa 45:17 But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded **world without end.**

### Eph 3:20-21

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Now that we have given multiple Scriptures plainly showing that God will not destroy the earth again, and it will remain, let's go on with some other Scriptural support to show what Heaven and Earth really are in Biblical terminology.

Isa 66:1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

Acts 7:49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

1 Chron 28:2 Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

Ps 132:7 We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool.

### Matt 5:34-35

34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

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

Notice the **red Colon**. It represents a significant part of this Scripture. Here's what Webster says about it. Used to mark a pause, greater than that of a semicolon, but less than that of a period; or rather it is used when the sense of the division of a period is complete, so as to admit by way of illustration, or the description is continued by an additional remark... Webster's 1828

Ps 99:5 Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

Ps 5:7 But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will **I worship toward thy holy temple**.

Ps 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and **worship at his holy hill**; for the LORD our God is holy.

Ps 132:7 We will go into his **tabernacles** : we will **worship at his footstool**.

Again the colon is used to illustrate that which is before the colon. Signifying that His tabernacle is the footstool of God, which would represent the Temple.

### Red Colon

2 Kings 21:4 And he built altars in **the house of the LORD**, of which the LORD said, **In Jerusalem will I put my name**.

Isa 27:13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and **shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem**.

Lam 2:1 How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and **remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!**

Job 38:33 Knowest thou the ordinances(Law) of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

**The ordinances are the Law, and the Law was setup in Jerusalem.**

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**Ps 132:7 Footstool of God**

**We will go into his tabernacles; we will worship at his footstool-the language of David and the people at the dedication of the ark on Zion. The ark is "His footstool" (Ps 99:5). (from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database.**

Now that we have established that the earth or Temple is the footstool of God, we shall see where present day Christianity gets it's 'End of the World' mentality from. Everything revolved around Jerusalem and the

Temple. It was Heaven and Earth to the Jews. Even to this day, they still believe this.

Matt 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of **the end of the world?**(AGE)

Matt 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is **the end of the world**(AGE); and the reapers are the angels.

Matt 13:49 So shall it be at **the end of the world:**(AGE) the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

Matt 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto **the end of the world**(AGE). Amen.

Heb 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in **the end of the world**(AGE) hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

2 Peter 3:7-10

7 But the **heavens and the earth**, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the **heavens** shall pass away with a great noise, and the **elements** shall melt with fervent heat, **the earth also** and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

NT:4748 Primary Root of **ELEMENTS**

stoicheo (stoy-kheh'-o); from a derivative of steicho (to range in regular line); to march in (military) rank (keep step), i.e. (figuratively) **to conform to virtue and piety:**

KJV - **walk (orderly).**

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

Acts 21:24 Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also **walkest orderly**, and keepest the **law**.

Now, who was one to the first progenitors of the destruction of the Earth theory??? Here is what he had to say: 'What we are about to consider will tend to show that, instead of permitting ourselves to hope for a continued progress of good, we must expect a progress of evil; and that the hope of the earth being filled with the knowledge of the Lord before the exercise of His judgment, and the consummation of this judgment on the earth, is delusive. **WE ARE TO EXPECT EVIL, UNTIL IT BECOMES SO FLAGRANT THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE LORD TO JUDGE IT...**

J.N. Darby a Freemason

Isa 51:15-16

15 But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.

16 And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, **that** I may **plant the heavens**, and **lay the foundations of the earth**, and say unto **Zion**, **Thou art my people**.

**That** is a definitive adjective, pointing to a certain person or thing before mentioned...

Webster's 1828

How could the writer proclaim this about the Heavens and Earth when Gen. the first chapter is the creative application of the Heaven and the Earth?? It's simple! The planting of the heavens and laying the foundations of the earth are seen here as direct correlation to Israel, Zion, His people, the Jews, etc.

Neh 1:9

9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; **though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven**, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

This Scripture is referring to the children of Israel. How were they cast out of Heaven?? What is the subjectivity of this passage??

From here, let's further establish what exactly the Heaven and Earth terminology represents and why. If we take a look at Gen. 28, we'll find a very significant passage that defines what Heaven and Earth to the Jewish mind would represent.

Gen 28:11-12

11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

Gen 28:16-17

16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Gen 28:18-19

18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

**Now, in the New Covenant we see the identical vision.**

John 1:50-51

50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

You may say, what significance that this has Heaven and Earth, which is the Temple & Jerusalem. Very much so! Jesus Christ was the firstfruit replacement for the physical or earthy structure of the Second Temple.

Mark 14:58

We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

John 2:19

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Jesus would become the firstfruit of the Temple not made with hands, in other words, not a physical structure made by man, but by God.

Matt 24:35-36

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.  
36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

That day is referred to the day of the passing of Heaven and Earth, or more clearly understood in Matt.24 as the City and the Sanctuary. This would be the destruction of Jerusalem 70ad. The Old heavens and earth are being replaced with the New Heavens and Earth. What are the New Heavens and Earth you might say. Well, let's see!

Isa 65:17-19

17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.  
18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.  
19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

**This Scripture coincides with Is. 65:**

**Rev 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.**

**Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

Isa 66:21-24

21 And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.  
22 For as the **new heavens** and the **new earth**, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.



23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Compare this Scripture: Matt 24:28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Mark 9:48

Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

The language of this verse is taken from the LXX of Isa 66:24. The worm that dieth not is a figure of speech drawn from the actual valley of Hinnom, where worms were continually at work. It is a picture of the unending torture and destruction of hell. (from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

Mark 9:42-50

The figure is taken from heaps of the dead slain in battle; and the prophet says that the number would be so great that their worm-the worm feeding on the dead-would not die, would live long-as long as there were carcasses to be devoured; and that the fire which was used to burn the bodies of the dead would continue long to burn, and would not be extinguished until they were consumed. The figure, therefore, denotes great misery, and certain and terrible destruction. In these verses it is applied to the state beyond the grave, and is intended to denote that the destruction of the wicked will be awful, widespread, and eternal.

It is not to be supposed that there will be any "real" worm in hell-perhaps no material fire; nor can it be told what was particularly intended by the undying worm. There is no authority for applying it, as is often done, to remorse of conscience, anymore than to any other of the pains and reflections of hell. It is a mere image of loathsome, dreadful, and "eternal" suffering.

(from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft)

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Now, the dwelling of righteousness. Is it some where in the future??

Or, is it here now?? Let's see what the Scripture says:

Rom 3:21-22

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Rom 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

## Conclusion:

In concluding this short thesis on the Heaven and Earth in Matt. 5:17-18, we can see clearly that God will not indeed destroy the Earth at all. The Biblical Heaven and Earth to the Jew was considered the City and the Sanctuary as in Daniel. The passing of Heaven and Earth would be the Old Mosaic system of the Law being completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ. That is why Matthew could say that not one jot or tittle of the Law would pass-away until Heaven and Earth would first pass-away. So, we see that the Law went and continued well past the Cross of Calvary all the way until Heaven and Earth(City & Sanctuary) would be destroyed at 70ad.

The Siege of Jerusalem in 70ad would be the most significant event in the history of mankind, because the Old Covenant Law from Adam until that last and final Old Covenant Generation would end, bringing in the full activation of the New Covenant. This would be considered as the Consummation of the Age. This is clearly showing that the fulfillment of Luke 24:44 would be complete at the End of the World.

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## Supplemental

1 Sam 2:8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them.

Prov 10:25 As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

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Isa 24:4-6

4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

**6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.**

**Isa 24:19-20**

**19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.**

**20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.**

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