

Jesus Will Roll Up This Age Like an Old Garment

Hebrews 1:10-12

For some reason Hollywood is transfixed with end-of-the-world scenarios. From the classic *War of the Worlds*, to *Independence Day* and the new *Battle: Los Angeles* and this summer's blockbuster *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, movies about the end of the world are all the rage. In our text we see that what Hollywood only imagines, Jesus Christ will actually bring to pass.

We have already seen how the man Jesus from Nazareth differs from the angels in three ways:

- (1). Angels are servants of Jesus, but Jesus is the expressed image of God and Ruler over all.
- (2). Angels work for Jesus like fire and wind while Jesus rules over His world in righteousness (v. 7).
- (3). In summary, angels are a creation of Christ, while Christ is the Creator of all the creation.

I. Christ created the earth and the heavens that He might be praised.

"And, you, Lord ... laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens ..." (v.10). This verse is a direct quotation from Psalm 102. *"And the heavens are the work of your hands."* *"For the earth is the Lord's and everything in it."* (See I Corinthians 10:26 and Psalm 24:1). *"The heavens declare the glory of God and the earth shows His handiwork"* (Psalm 19:1). *"A virgin shall bear a son called the branch, the gloriously beautiful, who shall come down and have dominion. He shall be desired and longed for, but also he shall be despised and be a sin offering. He shall be pierced, but will also pierce"* (Virgo, Coma, Centaurus, Bootes). The above comes from the study of astronomy, not the Bible, and is the story of the heavens.

II. The heavens and earth Christ created will one day perish.

"They will perish" (v. 11). The Hebrew writer states that the world as we know it will end. One must be very careful in interpreting this text. To perish does not mean to cease to exist. *"The heavens and the earth shall perish, not in the substance of them, but as to the quality of them. The present form and fashion shall pass away; the curse shall be removed from them and they shall be renewed and purified, but the substance of them shall continue"*(John Gill).

A. This age grows old and decays as a garment ... We see this in the morality of man, the languages of the nations, and the physics of the universe (the Newtonian principle). *"All natural systems degenerate when left to themselves"* (2nd Law of Thermodynamics).

B. Your life grows old and decays as a garment ... We see this in our physical abilities, our mental faculties, and our accomplishments. We are in the midst of a decaying age.

C. Only Jesus Christ "remains the same."

In v. 11 Jesus "remains." In v. 12 Jesus is "the same." He remains the same. This principle is called by theologians "the immutability of Christ." He is forever the same. The only constant in your life is Jesus. The only unchanging truth is His attributes.

III. Christ will ensure that His people will enjoy life on earth forever.

"Like a garment they will also be changed ... Your years shall not come to an end" (v. 12). We know nothing of annihilation; there is no such thing in the universe. God created nothing in vain. Annihilation means substance is reduced to nothing. Christ brings about a change. No more tears. No more sorrow. No more suffering. No more sin. The curse is reversed. Jesus said, "The meek shall inherit the earth;" an earth where the curse has been reversed.