

Not One Jot Or Tittle

“For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” (KJV)

“For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished.” (ASV)

“For most certainly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished.” (WEB)

“For I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the law until everything is accomplished.” (NIV)

“For truly I tell you, until the sky and earth pass away, not one smallest letter nor one little hook, identifying certain Hebrew letters, will pass from the law until all things that it foreshadows are accomplished.” (NAB)

In Matthew 5:18, Jesus was saying the same thing in all five versions and translations of the Bible. The ‘jot’ and ‘tittle’ are definitely not punctuation marks in the English language. Jesus spoke Hebrew and was referring to two letters in the Hebrew alphabet. A ‘jot’ in the Hebrew language is translated as a ‘yod’ and is written like an upside down, capital ‘L’ and is the smallest of all the Hebrew letters. The ‘tittle’ is a tiny curve at the top of a letter like this ~ and is little more than a tiny stroke of a pen. The tittle was called the ‘thorn’ of the yod. If we can understand this, what Jesus was saying was, “Not the tiniest letter or the notch on a letter, will disappear from the law until everything has been completed – according to the will and purposes of God.”

To try to explain in another way what Jesus was saying, we can read Deuteronomy 17:16 & 17; ‘But he shall not multiply horses to himself ... and he shall not multiply wives to himself ... neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.’ King Solomon ignored these commandments from God and did what he was told not to do. He took for himself many horses, wives and much wealth, effectively doing away with the word ‘not’, as though God was commanding the opposite of what He said. However much we ignore God’s commands, we can never do away with one ‘jot’ of them. We must live our lives according to God’s will and not according to our own. We can’t do away with the word ‘not’ and we can’t do away with one jot or tittle of the law [God’s commandments], until all things are accomplished. To understand what Jesus was saying; we will all have to obey God’s rules until the end of this age.

Amen and God bless you.

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