

# Lesson 2: The Fulfillment of the Law

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**Reference:** **Please Read:** **Matthew 5:17-20;** Luke 16:17

**Theme:** The integrity of the Scriptures can never be Compromised or Fail, they are Eternal

**Context:** Jesus was teaching a Large Group of people on a Mountain side in Galilee

## Introduction:

The Old Testament writings are full of rich Messianic prophecies; for example **Genesis 3:15**. Either as direct references to specific events or types/shadows, revealing analogies to some truth about the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

- 1 Cor. 10:1-12- We learn from the Old Testament examples- mistakes
- Hebrews Chapter 12- Heroes of faith chapter, follow their examples of faith
- The Old Testament is full of prophecies pointing to the coming Savior of the world
- **Please Read:** **1 Peter 1:10-11**
- The Old Covenant was in force until the end of John the Baptist's ministry
- The 3½ years of Jesus' ministry was a transition period between the Old and New

**Matthew 11:12-13**, "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John."

- We now live under a new and better Covenant through faith in Jesus- Hebrews 8:5-6
- As a matter of fact, in light of the New Covenant, the Old one is obsolete- Heb. 8:13
- That does not mean that Old Covenant and Old Testament stories have lost value
- Still rich in truth, acting as a foundation for our faith for today- 2 Peter 1:19; 3:2

**Hebrews 10:1**, "The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming — not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship."

- The Old Testament prophecies foretold Jesus coming
- The Gospels illustrate the fulfillment of them in Jesus' life and ministry
- The Epistles explain the rich meaning to the mystery of Jesus Christ for us today
- **Question:** "What is your favorite Messianic prophecy of Jesus?"

There are numerous passages in the Gospels and the Book of Acts that have the words "fulfill" and "Fulfilled" in reference to Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself.

## Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets

### John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it. The purpose of the Law was to lead us to Him. It was meant to be a temporary institution: **Please Read: Galatians 3:19-29.**

- Consider the coming of Jesus Christ to the earth
  - o **Matthew 1:22-23**- Jesus born of a virgin
  - o **Matthew 2:14-22**- Jesus as a small child called back from Egypt
- The mode and location of Jesus' ministry
  - o **Matthew 4:13-16**- He would minister in the Galilee area
  - o **Matthew 21:4-7**- The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem
- Even the prediction of Judas betraying Jesus
  - o **Matthew 27:3-10; John 13:18-19; 17:12; 18:9; Acts 1:15-22**
- Life of Jesus culminated in His Death, Burial, Resurrection and ascension to heaven
  - o **Luke 24:25-27, 44**- Written in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms
  - o **John 19:23-24**- The fact that Jesus' garment was gambled for by the soldiers
  - o **John 19:31-37**- The fact that Jesus' legs were not broken, but was pierced
  - o **Acts 2:27**- The resurrection of Jesus

### Matthew 5:18

"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."

- Absolutely impossible for God's Word to fail; otherwise God would cease to be God!
- We have great assurances in the Scriptures along these lines
  - o It is impossible for God to lie- **Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:16-20**
  - o Given by inspiration of God- **2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-21**
  - o Established forever- **Psalms 119:89, 144, 152, 160, 165; Proverbs 30:5-6**
- **Luke 21:33**, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."
- There are three aspects to the Law- Moral, Ceremonial and Judicial
- **Question:** "What should our attitude be towards observing Old Test. Scripture?"

It is said that there are 613 commandments in the Law of Moses or Torah. The 613 commandments include "positive commandments", to perform an act, and "negative commandments", to abstain from certain acts. The negative commandments number 365, which coincides with the number of days in the solar year, and the positive commandments number 248, a number ascribed to the number of bones and main organs in the human body.

## The Law of the New Covenant

Under the New Covenant, God has rolled all the commands of the Old into one single commandment for us to follow that covers everything- simple is better!

- **Please Read: Romans 13:8-10**
- Under the Old Covenant they were to love their neighbor as themselves- Lev. 19:18
- What if you had a poor self-image and did not love yourself that much?
- Natural human love is selfish at its core- can turn to hatred in a moment's time
- Under the Old Covenant, they were no born again- so that's the best they could do
- Under the New Covenant, Jesus took that command to the next level

### John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- In the Gospels, Jesus built on the Old Testament and focused on the heart
- Mt. 5:21- "Do not Murder" Jesus adds to it not to be angry with your brother
- Mt. 5:27- "Do not commit Adultery" Jesus said not to even look lustfully
- Mt. 5:38- "Eye for an Eye" Jesus tells us to turn the other cheek
- Through the New Birth, the love of God is our new spiritual nature- Romans 5:5

### 1 Peter 1:22-23

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

The true evidence of salvation in our lives is having God's love, the fruit of our recreated spirit in operation. We are saved by God's grace, through our faith, not by works- Ephesians 2:8-9.

### 1 John 3:14-15

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

**Question:** "Describe the manner in which you loved people before and after you were saved"