

Matthew 5:17-18: Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Intro: Today, Jesus reminds us that our identity, calling, & purpose is not out of step with all that has gone before His incarnation and birth. He & His mission, & we and our mission – they are perfectly in step (in harmony) with all that the law & the prophets contain & proclaim – they’re the same for the fame of God’s name!

And what do the law & the prophets contain & proclaim? They contain & proclaim Him: Jesus Christ! How are we to live the blessed life described in the beatitudes? How can we be salt & light in the world? By looking to God’s Word in the Scripture, which point us to Jesus Christ: knowing Jesus & trusting Jesus. All the Law & the Prophets (all of the Old Testament) is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, & it’s by looking to Him; knowing Him; trusting Him; treasuring Him, & obeying Him that we will be able to live out the beatitudes & be salt & light in the world!

1. Jesus Did Not Come To Abolish The Law Or The Prophets

2. Jesus Came To Fulfill The Law And The Prophets

Matthew 5:17: Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

We saw how every book of the Old Testament Scriptures points to Jesus Christ! The main message: Christ!

a. Moses and the prophets' point to Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets:

Luke: 24:27: And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

John 1:45: [Philip] We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, & also the prophets, wrote - Jesus of Nazareth

John 5:39: You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; & these are they which testify of Me

John 5:46: For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

Acts 10:43: [Peter] To Him all the prophets witness

b. The Father points to Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets:

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

John 5:37: And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me.

John 8:18: I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.

1 John 4:14: And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

John 5:31-32, 37, 39, 44-47: If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true. ³² There is another who bears witness about me, & I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true . . . ³⁷ . . . & the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me . . . ³⁹ You search the Scriptures b/c you think that in them you have eternal life; & it is they that bear witness about me . . . ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another & do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

c. Jesus' points to Himself as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets:

John 6:35: I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, & he who believes in Me shall never thirst

John 8:12: I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

John 10:9: I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved

John 10:11: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

John 11:25: I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

John 14:6: I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 15:5: I am the vine, you are the branches for without Me you can do nothing.

d. The Holy Spirit points to Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets:

John 15:26: But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

John 16:14: He [the Spirit of truth] will glorify Me [Jesus], for he will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

e. The Apostles' point to Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets:

Acts 1:8: But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me

Acts 5:42: daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Acts 8:5: Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria & preached Christ to them.

Acts 8:35: Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

Acts 9:20: [Paul] he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

Acts 11:20: But some of them . . . spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Acts 17:3: [Paul] This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.

Acts 17:18: [Paul] he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

Acts 18:5: Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:23: we preach Christ crucified

1 Corinthians 2:2: For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4: I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you . . . that Christ died for our sins and that He was buried, and that He rose again

2 Corinthians 1:19: For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us

2 Corinthians 4:5: For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord

Galatians 1:16: to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles

Ephesians 3:8: I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ

Philippians 1:18: Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached

Colossians 1:28: Him we preach

1 Timothy 3:16: God was manifested in the flesh . . . Preached among the Gentiles

f. Jesus is the true and better everything of the Bible characters we find in the Old Testament:

Matthew 12:40-42: For just as Jonah was three days & three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days & three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation & condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, & behold, something greater than Jonah is here. ⁴² The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation & condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, & behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Keller: Jesus is the true and better Adam who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is imputed to us.

Jesus is the true and better Abel who, though innocently slain, has blood now that cries out, not for our condemnation, but for acquittal.

Jesus is the true and better Abraham who answered the call of God to leave all the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void not knowing wither He went to create a new people of God.

Jesus is the true and better Isaac who was not just offered up by His father on the mount but was truly sacrificed for us. And when God said to Abraham, "Now I know you love me because you did not withhold your son, your only son whom you love from me," now we can look at God taking His son up the mountain and sacrificing Him and say, "Now we know that You love us because You did not withhold Your son, Your only son, whom You love from us."

Jesus is the true and better Jacob who wrestled and took the blow of justice we deserved, so we, like Jacob, only receive the wounds of grace to wake us up and discipline us.

Jesus is the true and better Joseph who, at the right hand of the king, forgives those who betrayed and sold Him and uses His new power to save them.

Jesus is the true and better Moses who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant.

Jesus is the true and better Rock of Moses who, struck with the rod of God's justice, now gives us water in the desert.

Jesus is the true and better Job, He's the truly innocent sufferer, who then intercedes for and saves His stupid friends.

Jesus is the true and better David whose victory becomes His people's victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves.

Jesus is the true and better Esther who didn't just risk losing an earthly palace but lost the ultimate heavenly one, who didn't just risk His life, but gave His life, Who didn't just say: "If I perish, I perish!" but said: "When I perish,

I'll perish for them to save My people!"

Jesus is the true and better Jonah who was cast out into the storm so that we could be brought in.

Jesus is the real Rock of Moses, the real Passover Lamb, innocent, perfect, helpless, slain so the angel of death will pass over us. He's the true temple, the true prophet, the true priest, the true king, the true sacrifice, the true lamb, the true light, the true bread.

Other pointers to Christ: The Tabernacle: JMac: Look at the tabernacle. What was that picturing? The tabernacle had a door; Christ said, "I am the door." It had a brazen altar; He said He was the altar, the ransom for many. It had a laver; He said He would wash and cleanse us. It had lamps; He said He was the light. It had bread; He said He was the bread. It had incense; He said, "My prayers ascend for you." It had a veil; He said, "The veil is My body." It had a mercy seat: He said, "I am the mercy seat." Everything pictured Him.

3. Jesus Fulfills The Law And Prophets In At Least Four Ways

a. Jesus is the only One Who obeyed all that the law and the prophets commanded and taught:

- **Galatians 4:4-5:** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- **John 6:38:** For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.
- **Hebrews 4:15:** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

b. Jesus is the only One Who accomplished every predictive prophecy about the Messiah: Jesus' whole life is a fulfillment of all of God's promises! **Josh McDowell's book (EDV):** 60 major prophecies Jesus fulfilled. The chances that one man fulfilled just 48 of those prophecies is 10 to the 157th power!

Matthew 1:22: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet

Virgin Birth; Birth in Bethlehem; Son called out of Egypt; He's called a Nazarene; Light to Gentiles

c. Jesus is the only One Who endured the curse of the law and died for sinners: Galatians 3:13: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

d. Jesus is the only One Who makes it possible for the law to be written on your heart and by His Spirit cause you to obey God's commandments: Jesus' blood is the blood of the New Covenant!

- **Jeremiah 31:31, 33:** Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah . . . ³³ this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27:** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Christ Is The Better Everything
Fulfilling All The Prophets Bring
He Died To Take God's Judgment Sting
Then Rose Eternal Life's Wellspring
All God's Promises Shall Ring
True And Yes In Christ Our King

By Faith Alone To Him We Cling
Our Sin Behind God's Back He'll Fling
With Joy He Makes Us Shout And Sing
All Sadness, Pain, And Death With Sting
We Shall Forget While Worshipping!