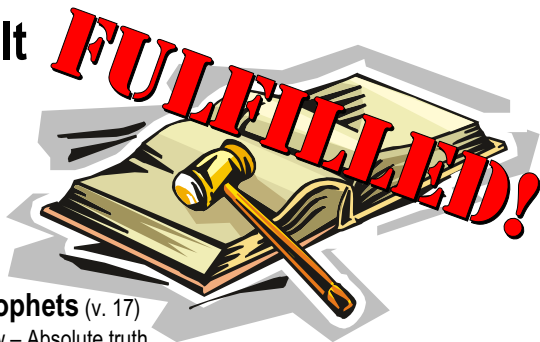


He Fulfilled It for Me

Matthew 5:17-19
Isaiah 53:1-11
Romans 8:1-11



The Law and the Prophets (v. 17)

- “the” Law – God’s Law – Absolute truth
- Genesis 1:1 says that this is God’s world and God’s world is governed by His Law.
- Four ways to looking at the Law, as viewed by the Jews:
 - ❶ The Ten Commandments – God’s moral Law.
 - ❷ The Pentateuch – the books of Moses, including judicial, ceremonial and moral law.
 - ❸ The Old Testament – the Pentateuch, historical, prophetic, and wisdom books.
 - ❹ The Rabbinical traditions – see Matthew 15:6.
- The phrase “the Law and the Prophets” referred to all of the Scriptures.
- The LAW’s three parts:
 - ❶ Judicial – those laws given to Israel making Israel an unique nation.
 - ❷ Ceremonial – those laws that prescribed Israel’s worship. Laws dictating how one was to approach Yahweh.
 - ❸ Moral – the Ten Commandments. Those laws that regulated the behaviour of all men.

Fulfilled by Christ (v. 17)

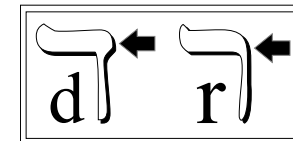
- Christ is the **center** of the Old Testament.
- Christ is the Old Testament – see Luke 24:25-26, 44; John 5:39; Hebrews 10:7
- “to fulfill”: “to satisfy”; “to complete”; “to finish”; “to execute”
- God’s standard for all of His Laws is **PERFECTION**. God does not judge on a curve! (Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 5:1; 1 John 3:3)
- God sets the standards – **not** us or others!
- We are to compare ourselves with God and not others.
- If the standard is **PERFECT** then none can be saved! (Matthew 19:25)
- Christ fulfilled the judicial law by *temporarily* putting aside the nation of Israel. (Matthew 21:43)
- Christ fulfilled the ceremonial law by setting aside the “shadows” and coming as the REAL THING. (Hebrews 9:11-12)
- Christ fulfilled the moral law **for us**. (ROMANS 8:1-4; 5:19)

Authority of Christ and the Law (v. 18)

- “For assuredly (‘amen’; ‘truly’; ‘in absolute truth’), I say . . .” – a carpenter son speaks with absolute authority! Either this is a joke or He is to be listened to!
- “until heaven and earth pass away” – to the end of and beyond earthly history.

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“A Passion to Know Him and Make Him Known!”

- ★ God’s word is **eternal** because He is **eternal**. (Psalm 119:89, 160; Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25; Hebrews 4:12)
- “not one jot (smallest letter) or one tittle (smallest stroke)” will **by no means** pass away”
 - ★ Not even the *seemingly* insignificant part of God’s Word **is not** insignificant and will be accomplished! (John 10:35)
- God’s Word is **eternal** and **precise** to the **smallest detail**.
- Therefore, God’s Word . . .
 - ❶ Must be **received**. (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:13)
 - ❷ Must be **highly esteemed** – taken very seriously. (Isaiah 66:2,5; Ezra 9:4; 10:3; Philippians 2:12)
 - ❸ Must be **obeyed**. (1 John 5:1-3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; Matt. 7:24-27; 12:50)
 - ❹ Must be **presented** and **taught** with the **greatest** of care. (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - ❺ Must be **earnestly contended for**. (Jude 3)



Caution and Blessing (v. 19)

- Since the Word of God is the Word of God (eternal and precise) it must never be modified!
- Even Christians have the tendency to “water down” God’s standard.
- Christ here **warns** that we are not to set aside, break, or even “water down” even the “least” of the His commandments. (See Matthew 23:23)
- Teachers come under greater condemnation than those who listen to them. (James 3:1)
- Teachers: Preachers, professional teachers, bible study teachers, parents, anyone who explains the word of God to another! – by word or deed.
- “called” – called by God. It does not matter what others say, but it does matter what God calls us!
- We are called upon “to keep and teach” the Word of God – “our walk must match our talk”.
- We are to walk **worthy** of our calling. (Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12)
- Here we see Christ’s emphasis on **“doing”**. (Matthew 7:21, 24-27; 12:50)

Conclusion

- Christ fulfilled the requirements of the Law on our behalf! Whose righteousness are you trusting?
- Christ’s gift, (His work, righteousness, obedience), calls for us to take more seriously how we live. Do you love Christ?