

Fulfilling The Law

Matthew 5:17-20 *“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. For truly I tell you, 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. Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

When I speak of the Torah, I hear it stated over and over, Jesus came to fulfill the Law, and by saying this the speaker usually means; ‘You can’t mean the actual Torah given at Sinai. You must mean the Mosaic Law as symbolic. For the Torah was fulfilled by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the new Law of the Spirit was then inaugurated at Pentecost.’ Because in their mind, the ‘Torah was fulfilled’ means done away with.

So, what we have is a confusion of the definitions of words. Because if the Torah was done away with, or is no longer in effect, that would mean it was abolished. Which Jesus says he did not come to do. But, the word ‘fulfill’ means: 1. To bring to completion or reality; achieve or realize (something desired, promised, or predicted). 2. To carry out a task, duty, or role, as required, pledged, or expected. 3. To put into effect; to execute.

But, when the Torah is brought into completion or reality it remains the Torah, and when the things promised or predicted come about, the Torah remains. And when it has been put into effect and has been executed it is still the Torah. So, the Torah remains until the heavens and earth disappear. And as Jesus tells us; we are to practice and teach the commands of Torah until our righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law. And Jesus tells us this, after the coming of Jesus. Jesus didn’t come to do away with Torah. He came so that he could write it on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33).

The Torah, The Law, is extremely important in the Bible. It represents who God is. God is a God of Law. That is what righteousness means, acting in accord with divine law. Without the Law the history of the Bible has little meaning.

This concept that the Torah was fulfilled (done away with) by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the new law of the Spirit was inaugurated at Pentecost, so all are brought into a personal relationship with Jesus. And this is the fulfillment of God’s purpose and the Bible. This is a false concept because it is only partially true.

It misrepresents the fulfillment of Torah, it assumes a replacement of Torah with a spiritual law which isn’t represented in the Bible. And although the New Covenant brought by Jesus’s death and resurrection does provide a personal relationship with God and Jesus. A personal relationship is not God’s only purpose in the Bible.

If God was only interested in personal relationships, then there would have been no need for a covenant with Abraham. There would have been no need for a lineage of Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons. There would have been no need to secure Jacob and his sons in Egypt where they could grow into a nation. There would have been no need to rescue the Children of Israel from Egypt when a Pharaoh rose up who

enslaved the Children of Israel. There would have been no need to call Moses from the wilderness. No need to bring plagues upon Egypt. No need to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt to Sinai. No need to give them the Law of Moses on Sinai. No need to promise them a land. No need to make them wander for forty years for a lack of faith to enter that land. No need for Joshua to conquer that land. No need to have a nation of Israel. No need for a tabernacle or a temple. No need to punish the Israelites when they did not follow the Law and take them out of the Land. No need to return them to the land. There would have been no need for Daniel to interpret dreams, or go to the lions den. No need for prophets. No need to punish the Jews again for rejecting their Messiah when Jesus came. No need to return them once more to the land in 1948. No need to rebuild the temple in the last days. No need to return the lost ten tribes. No need to bring the nations against Israel in the End. And no need for a tribulation, a Messiah, or a kingdom of God on earth for one thousand years.

There would not be a need for any of those things except for the Law. Because it is only by the Law and through the Law that all of those things happened came to be and transpired and will transpire yet in the future.

These things were done and will be done because of the Law. God is Righteous and He cannot be Righteous without a Divine Law. Fortunately, we know the Law very well. The Law is Jesus Christ. He is the Living Torah. He is the Word of God who became the Torah before he became flesh. He dwells within and writes the Torah on our hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33). We have a personal relationship with the Law of God.

The Law remains until the heavens and earth pass away. The Law will remain after Jesus returns as Messiah and rules the nations. God has declared that He will reign with His Law.

Isaiah 2:2-5 In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Law will go out from Zion, the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. The Messiah will rule the nations with the Law of Moses for one thousand years. And this prophecy is so important about the millennial reign that God had it repeated with another prophet Micah.

Micah 4:1-5 In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

The Law and The Word. The reign of Messiah. This is what is meant by fulfilling the Law. The earth at peace and with a knowledge of God and thirst to follow His paths because of His Law. At that time all of God's people from the least to the greatest will have that Law written on their heart and they will all know God (Jeremiah 31:34).

We remember when Jesus stood up in the synagogue in Nazareth and read the scroll from Isaiah 63 and stopped with "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he handed the scroll back and sat down. (Luke 4:16-21) He said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

He had stopped reading before saying the rest of the Isaiah prophecy which continued, "and the day of vengeance of our God," (Isaiah 61:2) but the scripture isn't fulfilled with the day of vengeance alone. That day is next. But we need to read the rest of the chapter and we see that the prophecy continues into the millennium and finishes with "For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels, For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations." (Isaiah 61:10-11).

The fulfillment of the Law is when the righteousness of God is displayed before all nations. And when all nations are at peace because of it.

In the meantime, we need to get prepared for the remaining days before the Messiah. And one important thing we need to do is to set aside these doctrines that inhibit our understanding of the Law and limit our study and thinking of the Old Testament and the Law of Moses. The Old Testament and the Prophets are not simply analogy pointing to Jesus and his death on the cross. Yes, symbolism obviously exists. But that wasn't the only reason these things were written about or happened. The Old Testament is real history about God and His Law and God's people and their trouble with that Law.

Yet, today we find God's people the Jews in their land Israel. There are secular Jews, but there are many, many Jews who are keeping God's Torah. And many Jews who are finding the New Covenant. We see these things because God is fulfilling His promises in the Torah today with the nation of the Jews. His promises with the covenant of Abraham.

God fulfills His Law, and He never abolishes it. Not while the Heavens and Earth stand.

May Yeshua HaMashiah, The Living Torah, Jesus Christ the Messiah, keep your hearts and minds.

Thank you,

A Voice in The Wilderness