



# Jesus Fulfills The Law & The Prophets

**Matthew 5:17-18 | Exodus 20:1-21**

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Jesus—in what He accomplished in His life, death, and resurrection—is the promised fulfillment of all that the Old Testament pointed to.

## **Matthew 5:17-18**

The biblical authors will often refer to the Old Testament (OT) Scriptures as “the Law and the Prophets” (e.g., Matt. 7:12; 11:13; 22:40; Luke 16:16; John 1:45; Acts 13:15; 28:23; Rom. 3:21), “the Law ..., the Prophets, and the Psalms” (e.g., Luke 24:44), or even just “the Law” (e.g., Matt. 5:18; John 10:34; 12:34; 15:25; 1 Cor. 14:21).

Jesus did not come to replace the OT, rather, Jesus was the goal and the completion of all that the OT had been moving towards and pointing to.

### Big Principle Born Out of The Main Point Above

For Christians, proper interpretation and application of any part of the Bible requires us to relate it to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

## **Seeing the Principle Applied to Exodus 20:1-21 in 3 Snapshots**

### **1. God's Exodus Salvation for His People | Exodus 20:1-2**

The Passover was God's chosen means for salvation for His people.

#### 3 things about this salvation:

- 1) The Passover was given to a \_\_\_\_\_ people.
- 2) The Passover was a \_\_\_\_\_ salvation.
- 3) The Passover was a \_\_\_\_\_ salvation.

Jesus is the promised fulfillment of what the Exodus and Passover pointed to. (i.e., John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7; Luke 22:20)

## 2. The Commandments (As a Whole) | Exodus 20:3-17

The law was never meant to produce righteousness, it displayed a perfect righteous, and in so doing it exposed our unrighteousness and inability to produce the righteousness required to stand right before Holy God. With that, the law was meant to drive us to the end of ourselves and to repentance and faith in God.

Jesus is the promised fulfillment of all that the law pointed to (i.e., Jer. 31:33-34 (the promise of the New Covenant brought about in Jesus); Mark 7:18-23; Rom. 3:21-22, 8:4; 2 Cor. 5:21).

In Jesus fulfilling the law, He radically transformed it.

Moral Laws: Jesus fulfilled, affirmed, and made explicit obedience from the heart.

Civil Laws: Jesus rendered these obsolete; under Christ, God's people are an assembly of churches all over the world, not confined to one nation.

Ceremonial/Clean Laws: Jesus brings these to fulfillment as now through His atoning death He cleanses us from all our sin and makes us right before Holy God.

## 3. The Israelites Request a Prophetic Mediator (Between Them & God) | Exodus 20:18-21

Because of the Israelites' fear and awe of God, they ask Moses to be their Prophetic Mediator between them and God.

Deuteronomy 18:16-18 quotes Exodus 20:19 and God promises, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you [Moses] from among their brothers."

Jesus is the promised prophet that Moses and the office of the prophets pointed to (i.e., Acts 3:19-23; Heb. 1:1-2, 3:1-6).

### Questions to Consider

1. How are you brought to worship Jesus more knowing that He fulfills all that the OT pointed to?
2. Applying the principle: how does Jesus fulfill all that the Temple pointed to? Why is this good news for Christians? Is there application for us who are in Jesus (i.e., 1 Cor. 3:16)?
3. Applying the principle: how does Jesus Fulfill at that the Priestly office pointed to? Why is this good news for Christians? Is there application for us (i.e., 1 Pet. 2:9-10)?
4. Knowing how Jesus radically transformed the law, how would you respond to someone who dismisses you as inconsistent because you seem to pick and choose which rules of the Bible to obey (e.g., Christians will say homosexuality is a sin, but eat shellfish)?

Recommended Resources: ***Loving the Old Testament*** by Alec Motyer and ***Biblical Theology*** by Nick Roark.

***Next Week's Sermon Text: Matthew 1:2-7***