

The Law & The Prophets: A New Covenant Perspective

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 31, 2016 • Elder John Carriveau

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 say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

~ Matthew 5:17-20

1) What about that mountain?

A) Mountains can represent Kingdoms in Scripture.

i.) Isaiah 51:24-25; Ezekiel 28:16; Daniel 2:34-35 & 44-45; Hebrews 12:22-24, 28

ii.) Jesus has come preaching the Kingdom of Heaven.

2) Let's read our passage: Matthew 5:17-20

A) This passage serves as a transition from the Beatitudes/Similitudes, and an intro to the teachings that follow.

3) Jesus wants to be absolutely clear - He's come to fulfill, not to abolish!

A) He's emphatic because He is going to interpret passages in ways the scribes and Pharisees never would.

i.) What are The Law and The Prophets? The whole Old Testament

4) Question: If we have the 5 books of the Law, the Prophets and the other Writings, why does Jesus need to explain it further?

A) Jesus is announcing the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven, which also brings the New Covenant.

i.) As a group, New Covenant people are different than Old Covenant people. Hebrews 8:6-13

a.) They ALL know the Lord savingly. They can ALL accept the spiritual implications of The Law and The Prophets.

b.) So, Jesus is about to teach New Covenant concepts in an Old Covenant context, and It WILL ruffle feathers.

5) Question: It seems Jesus is implying at least some of the Law can "pass away." Is that possible?

A) Moral Law - No!; Ceremonial Law - Yes.

6) "Losers" try to make the Law more palatable to carnal people. "Winners" teach faithfully.

7) We will be lost if our righteousness doesn't exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees.

A) Human/Self righteousness vs. the Righteousness of Christ imputed through faith.

8) Free yourselves of Old Covenant thinking

A) Examples: Tithing & Sabbath Keeping.

