

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 16 HAS THE LAW BEEN DONE AWAY WITH?

"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.

Matthew 5:17

1. Jesus states plainly that he has not come to abolish the law or the Prophets
2. Jesus also says that He has come to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. Think about the nature of Jesus. Would He ever do anything that would do us harm?

"After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak."

Acts 13:15

1. The Law and the Prophets are something that can be read from. Do you think they could be parts of the Bible?
2. Could it mean more than the Ten Commandments?

“as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”

Luke 2:23

1. The 'Law of the Lord' meant more than the Ten Commandments
2. In this case Jesus is quoting from Exodus 13. People in Jesus' day called the first five books of the Bible 'The Law' even when the subject in the book was not 'Law' as we understand it
3. Could 'The Prophets' mean the prophetic books of the Bible?
4. Would Jesus ever want to abolish whole sections of the Bible?

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ

Galatians 6:2

1. We are meant to carry burdens for each other
2. If we carry each other's burdens we are fulfilling the law of Christ
3. So when Jesus said He came to fulfil the law did that mean He was trying to show us how to continue to keep the law?
4. What would help you to continue to keep the law?

“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. I tell you the truth, 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. Anyone who breaks 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 practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:17-19

1. Jesus came to fulfil the teachings of the Law and Prophetic books in the Bible. He was not speaking of a part of one book of the Bible
2. These teachings are to be taken so seriously that not the slightest part of the Bible is to be removed. At least one Bible translation calls these tiny strokes of the pen 'jots' and 'tittles'. They were small marks used to help distinguish certain letters in the Hebrew alphabet
3. Not the slightest stroke is to be removed until 'everything is accomplished'. The teaching is that true fulfilment could only happen when everything prophesied in the Old Testament had taken place
4. People who break even these commandments are least in the Kingdom of heaven
5. People who practice and teach these commandments will be called great in the kingdom of heaven
6. Jesus often used the words of the Law and the Prophets in his teaching
7. Would modern people be able to keep these teachings?
8. How can we put into practice the commandments of God found in the Law and the Prophets?