



Why do people struggle with the Old Testament?

KICK OFF



Matthew 5:1 '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.'

KEY VERSE



Vs 17-20 are Jesus' summary of the righteousness and the righteous life which are to characterise the Christian.

BIG IDEA



CHRIST AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Matthew 5:17—18

- In verses 17-18 Jesus uses a number of important terms. What do the following mean:

'the law'

'the prophets'

'fulfill'
- In verses 17-18 what is Jesus' attitude to the authority of the Old Testament?
- What prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Jesus can you remember are fulfilled by Jesus Christ?
- How did Jesus fulfill the law?
Galatians 4:4

INVESTIGATE



DIG DEEPER

Martyn Lloyd-Jones says 'People have often wondered why it was that the early Church decided to incorporate the Old Testament with the New Testament. So many people who are Christians say that they like reading the Gospels, but that they are not interested in the Old Testament, and that they do not think those five books of Moses and their messages have anything to do with them. The early Church did not take that view, and for this reason: the one casts light upon the other, and each in a sense can only be understood in the light of the other. These two Testaments must always go together. As the great St Augustine once put it: The New Testament is in the Old contained, and the Old is in the New Testament explained.'

But above all, here in this pronouncement by the Son of God Himself, in which He says that He has not come to supercede the Old Testament, the law and the prophets. 'No,' He seems to say, 'all this is of God, and I am come to carry it out and fulfil it.' cont'd

5. How do Christians fulfill the law?
Romans 8: 2 – 4

6. There were three types of law in the Old Testament— moral, ceremonial and judicial. Do these all relate to today? Why or not why not?

'Jesus was made under the law.' When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law (Galatians 4:4). It is one of the essential truths concerning the incarnation that the eternal Son of God was made under the law. Though He is eternally above it, as Son of God He came and was made under the law, as one who had to carry it out. As you read the Gospels you find how perfectly true it is. Notice how carefully our Lord was to observe the law. He obeyed it down to the minutest detail. He taught others to love the law and explained it to them, and asserting the absolute necessity of obedience to it.



THINK THROUGH FURTHER

7. What is the relationship of the Christian to the law?

PRAISE GOD that Jesus was born of a woman, under the law, to fulfil the law for us.

CONFESS to God our lack of righteousness in our daily living.

ASK GOD to help you to live a life of righteousness that far exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

8. What did Jesus mean by verse 20? What does this mean for our daily living? Is this similar to Paul in Ephesians 2:8-10?

PRAY ALSO
For Scots' Church in our witness in the City. Pray that we would be able to contact many students in the CBD.



Praise God for the challenges raised by God's Word through this study.

Praying for others in your group:



How does this passage apply to our daily life?



For next week's study read Matthew 5: 21—26

