

TILL ALL BE FULFILLED  
Matthew 5:17-18

Intro: Sermon on the Mount filled with many new teachings. Gospel of Kingdom. People were astonished (7:28). Jesus assures hearers in 5:17 that he was not trying to undermine old law. This will be the key to understanding the contrastive statements found in the rest of his sermon.

- I. WHAT JESUS SAID IN VERSE 17. (Terms Defined; see Thayer and Greenfield)
  - A. Destroy- deprive of force, annul, overthrow, discard.
  - B. Law- Basically the first 5 books of Old Testament.
  - C. Prophets- Refers to remainder of Old Testament.
  - \* Together Law and Prophets denote entire OT. (cf: Matt 7:12, 22:40)
  - D. Fulfill- to fill up, complete, obey promises, fulfill prophecy.
  
- II. WHAT JESUS DID NOT SAY.
  - A. Did not say he would perpetuate law.
    1. Perpetuate- to continue and prolong. (ex. paying back a loan)
    2. Perpetuating old law would have actually destroyed it.
      - a. Old Law was designed to be fulfilled.
      - b. Jesus had to fulfill it to keep it.
      - c. If he had not fulfilled it he would have destroyed it.
      - d. Two ways to bring law to an end.
        1. Overthrow - Jesus did not do this.
        2. Fulfill- Jesus did do this. (Gal 3:24, Col 2:14)
  - B. Did not say Law would last as long as heaven and earth lasted.
    1. Jot- (gk:iota) smallest letter of greek alphabet.
    2. Tittle- (lit: little horn) small mark distinguishing between E & F.
    3. See parallel passage in Luke 16:16-17
      - a. How would law fail? By going unfulfilled.
      - b. Jesus is speaking of fulfillments certainty. It would happen.
      - c. Jesus is not making a comment regarding the law's duration.
  
- III. LAW WOULD LAST UNTIL "ALL" WAS FULFILLED. TO WHAT DOES "ALL" REFER?
  - A. "All" cannot refer to the entire Old Testament. Why?
    1. Are prophecies that won't happen until end of time. (Dan 12:2)
    2. Implications of text if "ALL" refers to entire Old Testament.
      - a. Every single part of the old law would have to remain.
        1. Circumcision . . . but . . . Gal 5 says can't bind.
        2. Old priesthood must remain . . . Hebrews affirms a new one.
        3. Ceremonial laws remain . . . Col 2 says no.
        4. Diet laws must remain . . . Rom 14 affirms all clean.
        5. Sabbath must remain . . . Col 2:16 says no.
  - B. "ALL" refers to things about Christ and his ministry.
    1. Context of Matt 5:17- "I am come." Christ's coming is context.
    2. Three things Jesus makes clear in his ministry.
      - a. Law would pass when he fulfilled prophecies about himself.
      - b. He anticipated fulfilling Old Testament passages.
      - c. He did fulfill those passages.
  - C. Passages which show "all" refers to Jesus ministry.
    - a. Mk 1:15, Lk 18:31, Lk 22:37, Mk 15:27, Jn 19:28-30, Jn 17:4
    - b. Acts 3:18, Acts 13:29, Acts 26:22

Conclusion: Law passed when prophecies of Jesus were fulfilled at cross. Had Jesus tried to perpetuate the old law he would have actually destroyed it.