

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Lesson: #13

Title: The Law and the Prophets

Scripture: Matthew 5: 17, 18

Date: 8-9-2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Matthew 5: 17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18: For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Moses was so highly esteemed by the Jews that when they heard Christ speak they thought Christ was opposed to the law of Moses. The Pharisees and scribes and their followers were constantly questioning the Lord saying,

Matthew 22:24:...Master, Moses said,...

Mark 12:19: Master, Moses wrote unto us...

The Scribes and Pharisees charged him with intending to destroy their law, and abolish the customs given them by Moses. The Lord states clearly that he did not come for that end, but really to *fulfil* or accomplish what was in the law and the prophets.

Proposal: This morning we will consider the law and the prophets to see that everything written in them was given by God to declare that God's fallen people would be saved by his Son, his Christ, the Lord Jesus.

When the religious leaders questioned our Lord concerning the law, they chiefly questioned him concerning the law of commandments, the law of blessings and cursings, the law concerning holy days and such. But what they missed was that everything written by Moses and the prophets was given to glorify the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus spoke of the book of Moses in reference, not to the law of commandments, but to the account of God speaking to Moses in a burning bush--that bush which burned but was not consumed is a type of Christ through whom God speaks to his people (Mark 12:26.)

All the words of Moses is the law OF GOD. And Jesus is God the Son. The law which Moses wrote is HIS law. He is the one who gave the law to Moses to give to the people. After the Lord rose from the dead, on the road to Emmaus, he preached the gospel to some.

Luke 24: 27: And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself....44: And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

I. THE LAW

The first five books--Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy--were written by Moses as it was given him from God. It is the law of God. The Lord said he came to fulfill the things written of him.

Genesis 3: 15...God declared that salvation is in THE SEED OF WOMAN--the Son born of woman without the aid of a man. Christ is that Seed. His name shall be called Jesus for he shall save his people from their

sins. Satan and his seed would be at enmity against the woman's seed. That Seed is Christ. The Lord Jesus told the scribes and the Pharisees that this is why they hated him.

John 8:44: Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Genesis 3: 21:...After the fall, God immediately began to set forth the truth that his Christ is the only way to God. A lamb was slain in place of Adam. God stripped Adam of his fig leaves and covered Adam and Eve with the coats of skins God had provided. That covering typified the righteousness of God which Christ wrought for his people.

Genesis 4: 4...Abel came to God in the blood of a sacrifice which died in his place. By doing so Abel confessed his absolute inability to come to God any other way. God accepted Abel through that Substitute. Abel's lamb typified Christ the Lamb in whom the believer is accepted of God through faith in his blood. Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev 13: 8.)

Genesis 6: 8...When God purposed to destroy the world with a flood, God revealed to Noah that God shed his grace on Noah by providing Noah an Ark. He sealed Noah in the Ark so that when God's rain of judgment came down Noah was spared in the Ark. Peter tells us that was a figure of Christ's people being in him when he died and rose again which we confess in water baptism (I Pet 3: 21, 22.)

When the judgment ceased, the waters dried up, and God made a covenant with Noah. God gave Noah a rainbow to constantly remind him of God's covenant. That rainbow could only be seen when light shined. But when the light shined seven colors--the number of perfection--were clear in Noah's eyes. God's covenant to a sinner declares that his salvation is a perfect salvation, settled by the perfect obedience of Christ by which the sinner is made perfect before God. That covenant is clear to the eye of faith when God shines the light of the gospel of Christ into the heart of a sinner. Through that gospel of light the sinner is continually reminded of God's everlasting covenant just as Moses was reminded when the light revealed the rainbow to him. The throne of Christ is described as having a rainbow round about it (Rev 4: 3.) The Lord says through Isaiah concerning his Son...

Isaiah 42:6: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

Genesis 18:18...The LORD made a covenant with Abraham declaring that in Abraham's seed a chosen people scattered among all the nations of the earth would be blessed--and that seed is Christ (Gal 3: 16.)

God commanded Abraham to offer up Isaac. And God provided a lamb to take Isaac's place. So Isaac walked away from death. Christ is that Lamb of God, who wearing a crown of thorns laid down his life on the cross so that all his people are freed from death.

There are many more examples in the words of God which Moses wrote. But everything God gave to Moses is God's word, God's law. It was given to declare that salvation is by God's grace, through the obedience of his Son unto death, through the light of the gospel of Christ, through faith alone.

Secondly, concerning the law of commandments given by God through Moses, Christ fulfilled. (This is the law which the Pharisees and scribes and their followers were ignorantly zealous of.) Men divide the law into the moral law (the Ten Commandments), the civil law (those blessings and curses which made up the law of the land) and the ceremonial law. But it is one law of the one God.

The law contained in commandments set forth the monumental offense of that one transgression Adam committed when he disobeyed God's one command in the garden. The law was given by God:

Romans 3: 19:...that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Christ Jesus did not come to destroy his law. God is holy. His law must be upheld, it must be established in righteousness. No sinner could or can honor and establish God's law as it must be honored and established. Christ came to fulfill his own law.

Christ fulfilled the law by his teaching its true meaning and by his obedience under it. Christ Jesus receives the glory as the only one who has ever perfectly taught the true meaning of his law (as we will see as we go through this chapter.) Christ is the preeminent Teacher of his law and of his gospel.

Illustration: He is set in a mount in our text. He has drawn his disciples to himself. And he is teaching them the truth of his law. He is doing the same from heavens mount even now in the hearts of his redeemed, born again saints.

Christ Jesus magnified and made honorable the precepts of his law in perfect obedience in thought, word and deed. Christ Jesus fulfilled the justice--the penalty--of his broken law in perfect obedience. On behalf of his people, he willingly took their sins upon himself and took their place bearing his eternal justice on their behalf unto death. God is just--his broken, offended justice is satisfied. God is the Justifier because he gave his own Son who justified his people.

Galatians 4:4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Christ Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial law in perfect obedience.

Hebrews 10: 1: For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect....12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15: *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16: This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these *is*, *there is* no more offering for sin.

This is what God declared that he would perform in the person of his Son in all that Moses wrote, beginning in the garden and throughout the first five books of the bible.

II. THE PROPHETS (and this includes the psalms for the Lord Jesus said, all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.)

Isaiah 7: 14:...the prophet proclaimed that Christ would be born of a virgin.

Micah 5: 2...the prophet proclaimed that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem

Daniel 9: 25...the prophet proclaimed the exact time the Savior would be born.

Jeremiah 31: 15...the prophet proclaimed that children would be massacred at the time of his birth. Herod made the decree:

Matthew 2: 17: Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18: In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Isaiah 9: 1-2:...the prophet proclaimed that those who sat in darkness in Galilee would see great light...Our Lord went into Galilee...

Matthew 4: 14: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 15: The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, *by* the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; 16: The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Zechariah 9: 9...the prophet proclaimed he would come into Jeruaselm riding on an asses colt...John 12: 12-14 he did just that.

Psalm 41: 9:...declares he would be betrayed by his familiar friend...

Mark 14: 10: And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Zechariah 11: 12-13...the prophet proclaimed the Christ would be sold for thirty pieces of silver...

Matthew 26: 15: And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Zechariah proclaimed the money would be returned and spoke of the field in which Judas hung himself...Matthew 27: 6-7 it came to pass.

Psalm 27: 12...the prophet proclaims false witnesses would be set up against him...Mt 26: 60-61 it was fulfilled.

His silence when accused, his being smitten and spat upon, his being hated without a cause, his sufferings in place of his people, his being crucified with sinners, his hands and feet being pierced, his being mocked of men, being given gall and vinegar to drink, his mockery, his intercession for his enemies, his pierced side was all proclaimed by the prophets and all fulfilled. The psalmist wrote of men gambling for his coat and in Mark 15: 24 it was fulfilled.

Psalm 34: 20 says not a bone would be broken; John 19: 33 it was fulfilled.

Isaiah the prophet proclaimed he would be buried with the rich...Matthew 27: 57-60 it was fulfilled. His resurrection and ascension was proclaimed in the Psalms and fulfilled. (Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 26:19; Hosea 6:2; Matthew 28:9; Psalm 68:18; Luke 24:50-51).

Christ is the one in whom the law and the prophets spoke. He did not come to destroy his law or the prophets but he fulfilled all that was written of him. We can be sure that all the promises of God's salvation are yea and Amen in Christ Jesus.