GOD'S LAW IS STILL IN EFFECT FOR NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS

Let's consult the author and finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ, concerning this matter once and for all. He said in Matthew 5:17–18, the following:

"Do not THINK I have come to ABOLISH" [G2647: kataluō: disintegrate, demolish, or dissolve] the LAW (2) [G3551: nomos: regulation; specifically of Moses, including the volume and the gospel] or the PROPHETS; I have NOT come to ABOLISH (1) them but to FULFILL (3) (4) [G4137: plēroō: consummate, execute, and ratify (confirm)] THEM. For truly I tell you, until HEAVEN and EARTH disappear, NOT the smallest letter, NOT the least stroke of a pen, will by any means DISAPPEAR from the LAW (2) until EVERYTHING is ACCOMPLISHED." (Matt. 5:17–18, NIV) (emphasis added).

Accordingly, in Jesus' own words, He is saying He did not come to abolish (disintegrate, demolish, or dissolve) the Law or the Prophets. Rather, He came to fulfill (consummate, execute, and ratify [confirm]) them with His precious blood. He was willing to die on the Cross to redeem us so we would no longer be under the "curse" of the Law. This is based on Romans 6:23, which says, "For the WAGES of SIN is DEATH, but the GIFT of GOD is ETERNAL LIFE in Christ Jesus our Lord." (NKJV) (emphasis added).

As such, before we continue, let's take a closer look at what the words "consummate," "execute," and "ratify" mean.

It is critical we fully understand what Jesus meant when He said He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but rather He came to fulfill them.

- * "Consummate" means to make perfect and complete in every way.
- * "Execute" means to carry out or put into effect (a plan, order, or a course of action).
- * "Ratify" means to confirm by expressing consent, approval, or formal sanction of something.

Therefore, Jesus Christ did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. Rather, He came

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to "consummate" the Law by making those who were under the Law perfect and complete in every way.

This is substantiated in Hebrews 10:1, which says, "For THE LAW, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can NEVER with THESE SAME SACRIFICES, which they offer continually year by year, MAKE THOSE WHO APPROACH PERFECT." (NKIV) (emphasis added).

In addition, Jesus Christ would "execute" (carry out) *Yehôvâh's* eternal plan of "redemption," "reconciliation," and "restoration" for all mankind and the world. This was predetermined and decreed by God before the foundation of the world. This is based on First Peter 1:17–21, which says the following:

"And if you call on the FATHER, who without partiality JUDGES ACCORDING TO EACH ONE'S WORK, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here [on the earth] in FEAR; knowing that you were not REDEEMED with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the PRECIOUS BLOOD of CHRIST, as of a LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH and WITHOUT SPOT. He [the Word who became the Son of Man in the Person of Jesus Christ] indeed was FOREORDAINED (5) [G4267: proginosko. to have knowledge beforehand of those whom God elected to salvation] BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, but WAS MANIFEST in these LAST TIMES for you who THROUGH HIM believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that YOUR FAITH and HOPE are in GOD." (1 Pet. 1:17–21, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Furthermore, by Jesus Christ's precious blood He would "ratify" (confirm) all of *Yehôvâh's everlasting* covenants (plural) He established throughout the *synergy of the ages*, including the *first* covenant (Old Covenant).

In other words, Jesus expressed His consent and approval. He "formally" sanctioned all of God's *everlasting* covenants (plural) on the Cross at Calvary and has confirmed the promises made to our fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel). He did this so those of us who were formerly Gentiles *may* glorify God, the Father, for His mercy. This is based on Romans 15:8–9, which says the following:

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"Now I say that JESUS CHRIST has become a SERVANT to THE CIRCUMCISION for the TRUTH of GOD, to CONFIRM (6) [G950: bebaioo: to make stable and to establish] THE PROMISES MADE TO THE FATHERS, and THAT THE GENTILES MIGHT GLORIFY GOD FOR HIS MERCY..." (Rom. 15:8–9, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Hence, Jesus Christ shed His precious blood for the forgiveness of our sins so we could be brought back into "walking" in a covenant relationship with our heavenly Father, *Yehôvâh*.

Our "justification" is <u>not</u> based on keeping the *letter of the law*. Rather, our "justification" is based on what Jesus Christ did, period. And, it is for this very reason, we "become" saved by God's grace by placing our faith in His only *begotten* Son, Jesus Christ, whom He sent.

And, for this very reason, we become saved by God's grace by our faith in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, whom He sent. However, our "sanctification" process is another matter.

To reiterate, we are "redeemed" by our faith in Jesus Christ which happens prior to us knowing about our heavenly Father's instructions written in the Torah.

Thus, us knowing about and walking according to our heavenly Father's instructions written in the Torah does not save us.

Rather, our heavenly Father's instructions written in the Torah teaches us how to walk as His children in a "covenant" relationship with Him once we become saved by grace through faith.

After all, we must make an exodus out of Egypt (the world and our bondage) in order to enter the Promised Land.

This is why our "sanctification" is a life-long process and it requires us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling until we take our last breath. Hence, we must finish the race which was started when we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Yet we must run this life-long marathon with great endurance in order to "overcome" until the very end. We only receive the prize of "immortality" and entering the *kingdom of heaven* if we finish the race well by doing the "will" of our heavenly Father (Matthew 7:21–

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23). We will only do the "will" of our heavenly Father by learning about and walking according to His instructions written in the Torah and "obeying" His commandments once we become saved by grace through faith.

THE PROPHECIES SPOKEN BY THE "PROPHETS OF OLD" STILL ARE NOT TOTALLY FULFILLED

Let's take another look at what Jesus said in Matthew 5:17–18, concerning Him not coming to abolish (disintegrate, demolish, or dissolve) the Law or the Prophets. As is true with so many other Scriptures in the Bible, there is a partial fulfillment of certain Scriptures spoken of by the "Prophets of Old" in history. However, there will be a total fulfillment of these prophesies when Jesus Christ, who is "the" Prophet of all prophets, returns a second time.

First, Jesus says to us in Matthew 5:17, "Do not THINK I have come to <u>ABOLISH</u> (1) [G2647: kataluōī disintegrate, demolish, or dissolve] the <u>LAW</u> (2) [G3551: nomos regulation; specifically of Moses, including the volume and the gospel] or the <u>PROPHETS</u>; I have NOT come to <u>ABOLISH</u> (1) them but to <u>FULFILL</u> (3) (4) [G4137: plēroōī consummate, execute, and ratify (confirm)] THEM." (NIV) (emphasis added).

Therefore, when Jesus says, "I have come to fulfill the Law and the Prophets..." we need to ask ourselves the following question: "Which time is He speaking of when He says I have come?"

Because the very next statement, Jesus makes in Matthew 5:18, is this: "For truly I tell you, until HEAVEN and EARTH disappear, NOT the smallest letter, NOT the least stroke of a pen, will by any means DISAPPEAR from the LAW ⁽²⁾ until EVERYTHING is ACCOMPLISHED." (NIV) (emphasis added).

Has heaven and earth passed away? No! Therefore, not everything which was written in the Law, or spoken of by the "Prophets of Old," is fulfilled yet. Nor, will they be until Jesus Christ comes back the second time.

Thus, Jesus Christ's first coming did *partially* fulfill the Law and the Prophets. Jesus became the "living" Torah and was the fulfillment (goal) of what the "Prophets of

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Old" prophesied concerning "who" the Messiah would be when He came to the earth the first time.

They also proclaimed what would happen when He appears the second time.

As I will cover in Chapter 48 of this book, Christ is the goal of the law of righteousness for everyone who believes. This is exactly what the apostle Paul is referring to in Romans 10:4, when he proclaims, "For Christ is the END of THE LAW for RIGHTEOUSNESS to everyone who believes." (NKJV) (emphasis added.

In addition, the Law was partially fulfilled by Jesus Christ when He came to the earth the first time.

This is based on John 3:16, which says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJV)

God is love, and this is why our love for God and one another *essentially* fulfills the Law for those who walk according to God's Spirit and His commandments. I will cover this fact indepth in Chapter 56 of Book 3 Volume II.

As such, when Jesus came to the earth the first time, He demonstrated firsthand for all His disciples, including us, not only what the *kingdom of God* looked like, but what His disciples should say and do while we are still living on the earth for our heavenly Father's purposes and glory to prevail.

Accordingly, in this respect, Jesus Christ "fulfilled" the Law because He walked according to the *fruit of the Spirit* while He was on the earth.

Moreover, He died for us so we would no longer be under the "curse" for *unintentionally* transgressing God's law. Also, under the New Covenant, Jesus has now given us, His disciples, His grace and power through His Holy Spirit. We can now also walk according to the Spirit and produce the *fruit of the Spirit* thereof, as we follow in the footsteps of our Good Shepherd.

In fact, Jesus will judge us according to His law, that He did not abolish (disintegrate, demolish or dissolve), when all the books (plural) are opened up on Judgment Day if we

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do not walk according to the Spirit and in love. If God's law is no longer valid for New Covenant believers, then what will be measured and judged against on Judgment Day when all the books (plural) are opened up?

Has Jesus totally fulfilled what the "Prophets of Old" said that He would do or be like when He came to the earth the first time? No, absolutely not.

One example I will use at this time to substantiate this truth is this: When Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day as was His custom, and He stood up to read. He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah.

When He opened the book, He found the place where it was written, and He said the following:

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." (Luke 4:18–19, NKIV)

Then we are told, in Luke 4:20–21, Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And, the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him when He said to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (NKJV)

Jesus was saying to those who were present on that particular day He was the One foretold by the prophet Isaiah who would come to fulfill the "good news" of salvation. However, Jesus did not proclaim the entire Scripture the prophet Isaiah declared, based on Isaiah 61:1–3.

Jesus did not proclaim the part of the Scripture which is talking about the day of the vengeance of our God which He shall fulfill with His second appearing on the "Day of the Lord."

Isaiah 61:1–3, says the following:

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"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, [this is the point Jesus stopped reading the Scripture] And the DAY of VENGEANCE of our GOD; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." (Isa. 61:1–3, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Thus, when Jesus came the first time, He came as the gentle "sacrificial" Lamb to die for our sins and to seek and to save that *which* was lost by the first Adam (Luke 19:10 and Matthew 18:11).

And, I can assure you based on God's Word, the second time Jesus Christ returns He will not be the gentle "sacrificial" Lamb, but He will be the roaring Lion from the *tribe of Judah*.

He will not be humbly riding a donkey, but He will be a conquering King on a white stallion, and the armies of heaven will be at His side. With eyes blazing with *fire*, He will judge and make war as He pours out the wrath of God Almighty on the *unrepentant*, wicked inhabitants living on the earth.

Hence, at His second appearing, Jesus will totally fulfill the part of the Scripture in Isaiah 61:1–3, which talks about the day of vengeance of our God. Also, upon His second appearing, Jesus Christ will bring His faithful "remnant" into *everlasting* salvation as we enter the *kingdom of heaven*.

This will happen when He raises the dead in Christ and "gathers together" those few who are still alive and remain (survive) on planet earth after the tribulation period. We shall be "caught up" together with them (the dead in Christ) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air at the time of His *second* coming. Accordingly, until this happens, what the "Prophets of Old" prophesied concerning those things which shall come to pass has not been *totally* fulfilled yet.

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As such, Jesus did not do away with or totally fulfill the Law or the Prophets. In fact, one-third (1/3) of all the prophecies of the "Prophets of Old" in the Book of the Prophets have not been totally fulfilled at this point.

Moreover, there are many more Scriptures concerning the end-times which have only been *partially* fulfilled throughout the *synergy of the ages.*

These Scriptures will be *totally* fulfilled before or when Jesus Christ returns the second time.

God's Word requires the testimony of two or three witnesses to establish a matter.

Therefore, I will provide four examples of prophecy given by the Old Testament prophets which have not been totally fulfilled yet. They are as follows:

❖ The prophet Isaiah prophesied Damascus, Syria, would be annihilated and cease from being a city. However, since the foundation of the world, this has *never* happened. This is based on Isaiah 17:1, which says the following:

"The BURDEN AGAINST DAMASCUS. 'Behold, DAMASCUS will CEASE from BEING A CITY, And it will be a RUINOUS HEAP.'" (Isa. 17:1, NKĮV) (emphasis added).

❖ The prophet Daniel prophesized there shall be a time of trouble, such as *never* was since there was ever a nation. This is referring to the *Great Tribulation*.

After the *Great Tribulation* takes place based on what Jesus says to us in Matthew 24:29–31, Mark 13:24–27, and Luke 21:25–28, everyone whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life shall be delivered (escape). I will cover the timing of this in-depth in Chapters 70, 71, and 72 of Book 3 Volume III.

Until this happens, the elect are supernaturally protected by God because they have the "seal of the living God" on their foreheads.

This time of trouble is based on Daniel 12:1, which says the following:

"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a TIME of TROUBLE,

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Such as NEVER WAS SINCE THERE WAS A NATION, Even to that time. And AT THAT TIME your PEOPLE [God's people] shall be **DELIVERED** (7) [H4422: mâlat: to escape; to be preserved; to be saved], EVERY ONE who is found WRITTEN in THE BOOK." (Dan. 12:1, NKJV) (emphasis added).

❖ The prophet Isaiah prophesied there would be a cataclysmic event so great it would *literally* knock the earth out of its place (orbit). This is based on Isaiah 13:13, which says the following:

"Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the EARTH will MOVE OUT OF HER PLACE [this earth will literally move out of its orbit—this is when the sun, the moon, and the stars all go dark that all the end-time Scriptures talk about] In the WRATH OF THE LORD OF HOSTS And in THE DAY [the "Day of the Lord"] of His FIERCE ANGER." (Isa. 13:13, NKIV) (emphasis added).

❖ The prophet Isaiah prophesied the earth would fall and not rise again in Isaiah 24:19–21.

This will happen on the "Day of the Lord" when the Lord will punish the host of the "exalted" ones and the kings of the earth. This is based on Isaiah 24:19–21, which says the following:

"The EARTH is VIOLENTLY BROKEN, The EARTH is split open, The EARTH is shaken exceedingly. The EARTH shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its TRANSGRESSION shall be heavy upon it, And IT [the earth] WILL FALL, and NOT RISE AGAIN. It shall come to pass in that DAY [the "Day of the Lord"] That the LORD will PUNISH on HIGH the HOST of EXALTED ONES [the fallen angels who rebelled with Lucifer] And on the EARTH the KINGS of the EARTH." (Isa. 24:19–21, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Therefore, until Jesus Christ's second coming occurs, the Book of the Law (the Torah) and the Book of the Prophets have not yet been *totally* fulfilled. Nor, has everything been accomplished.

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This is why Jesus proclaimed in Matthew 5:18, the following:

"For truly I tell you, until HEAVEN and EARTH disappear, NOT the smallest letter, NOT the least stroke of a pen, will by any means DISAPPEAR from the <u>LAW</u>⁽²⁾ [G3551: nomos regulation; specifically of Moses, including the volume and the gospel] until EVERYTHING is ACCOMPLISHED." (Matt. 5:18, NIV)

Again, has heaven and earth disappeared yet? No! Therefore the Book of the Law and the Book of the Prophets are still applicable for New Covenant believers.

PLEASE SHARE THIS TEACHING TO HELP SPREAD THE TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS. IF YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THIS TEACHING, PLEASE CONSIDER SOWING A SEED INTO MY MINISTRY OR PARTNERING WITH MY MINISTRY. THANK YOU.