

Matthew 5:17-18

[CAVEAT: Everything between the pink brackets that is written in bold, ten-point, italic fonts are not to be taken as part of the scriptures. They are only my attempt to help the readers understand the scripture better. T.A.H.]

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**.

In verse 17, **Yahshua** was saying that He did not come to destroy **the Law of Moses** or that which was written by the **Prophets**. He came to **fulfil them**. He came and did that which the law of Moses and the prophets said He would do. (For proof, read on.)

In verse 18, **Yahshua** was saying that **one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled**. (It would only be conjecture if I told what I believe about the heaven and earth passing away, so I will hold my thoughts on it.) However, **till all be fulfilled** is the final **goal post for the restriction to end**.

Now, what is the **till all be fulfilled** mean? Since **Yahshua** is the one who said it why don't we let Him tell what He meant by **till all be fulfilled**? Shortly before His death, He told the twelve the following before He took them with Him to Jerusalem.

Luke 18 (31) Then **He** took *unto Him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and **all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished**. (32) For He shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: (33) And they shall scourge *Him*, and **put Him to death**: and the third day **He shall rise again**. (34) And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

Yahshua confirmed those things with His disciples on the fourth day after His death.

Luke 24 (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**. (45) Then opened **He** their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, (46) And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Messiah to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day**:

The **all things** that were taught by the sacrificial, rituals and ceremonial laws etc. administered by the Levitical Priesthood, the testimonies of the prophets and the words **concerning Him** in the Psalms **foretold of Yahshua's death, burial, resurrection and ascension to Heaven**.

The **restriction "that all things must be fulfilled" was fulfilled by Yahshua Messiah. Therefore, "jots" and "tittles" etc. etc. could have pass from the Law**. If that is not true, then how could the laws of sacrificing animals have passed from the Law?

Why was there a need for a change from the **Old Covenant laws** with another priesthood **after the order of Melchisedec** and **not after the order of Aaron**?

What about the lack of perfection of the Old Covenant and the Levitical Priesthood? The author of the Book of Hebrews speaks concerning it.

Hebrews 7 (11) If therefore **perfection were by the Levitical priesthood**, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need *was there* that another priest should rise **after the order of Melchisedec**, and not be called **after the order of Aaron**? (12) For **the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a *change also of the law**.

*G3331 μετάθεσις metathesis met-ath'-es-is From G3346; transposition, that is, transferral (to heaven), **disestablishment (of a law): - change, removing**, translation.

Hebrews 7 (18) For **there is verily a disannulling of the commandment** going before **for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof**. (19) **For the law [Old Covenant] made nothing perfect**, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto **Yahweh**. (20) And inasmuch as not without an oath *He was made Priest*: (21) (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by **Him** that said unto **Him, Yahweh** sware and will not repent, **Thou art a Priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec**: [*Psa. 110:4*]) (22) By so much was **Yahshua** made a surety of a **Better Testament**.

The **Levitical Priesthood and the Old Covenant made nothing perfect**, because **it did not have the power to change the human hearts**. But, the bringing in of a **better hope** did. The **better hope** was **Yahshua, the Gospel, and power of Yahweh's Holy Spirit which could change the human hearts**. That would soon happen after **Yahshua** came, preached the Gospel, died for our sins and sealed the **New Covenant** with His own blood. Then, **Yahshua** had to be resurrected from the dead and ascended to Heaven and pour out the **Holy Spirit** on the Day of Pentecost to be in the Believers.

It might be wise to read what else the author of the Book of Hebrews wrote concerning the **Old Covenant under the Levitical Priesthood** and the **New Covenant**, with **Yahshua, the High Priest for ever** after the order of **Melchisedec**.

Hebrews 8 (1) Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such a **High Priest**, Who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens [*Psa. 110:1*]; (2) A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which **Yahweh** pitched, and not man. ... (6) But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also **He is the Mediator of a Better Covenant**, which was established upon **better promises**. (7) For **if that first Covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second**. (8) For finding fault with them, He saith, Behold, the days come, saith **Yahweh**, when I will make **A New Covenant** with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah: (9) Not according to the Covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in My Covenant, and I regarded them not, saith **Yahweh** (10) For this *is* the **Covenant** that I will make with the House of Israel after those days, saith **Yahweh; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts**: and I will be to them an **Elohim**, and they shall be to Me a people: (11) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know **Yahweh**: for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. (12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. [*Jeremiah 31:31-34*] (13) In that He saith, **A New Covenant**, He hath made the first old. **Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away**.

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**. (2) For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. (3) But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. (4) **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins**. ... (8) Above when **He** said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin **Thou** wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; **which are offered by the law**; (9) Then said **He**, Lo, **I** come to do **Thy** will, O **Elohim**. **He taketh away the first [Covenant], that He may establish the second**, (10) **By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua Messiah once for all**.

Hebrews 13 (9) Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; **not with [sacrificial] meats**, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. (10) **We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle**. (11) For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. (12) Wherefore **Yahshua** also, that He might sanctify the people **with His Own blood, suffered without the gate**. (13) **Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp**, bearing **His** reproach. (14) For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. (15) By **Him** therefore **let us offer the sacrifice of praise to Yahweh continually**, that is, **the fruit**

[Back to Articles-2](#) OR [Back to Home Page](#)

of *our* lips giving thanks to His name. (16) But to do good and to communicate forget not: **for with such sacrifices Yahweh is well pleased.**

As a **second witness**, the Apostle Paul apparently agrees with the author of the book of Hebrews concerning the **Levitical Priesthood with the Old Covenant** and the **New Covenant** with **Yahshua, the High Priest for ever** after the order of **Melchisedec**.

In the following scripture, the Apostle Paul wrote that he was an able **ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter**, but **of the Spirit**: for **the letter killeth**, but **the Spirit giveth life**. He also referred to the **Old Covenant as the ministration of death and the ministration of condemnation**.

II Corinthians 3 (2) Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: (3) *Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of **Messiah** ministered by us, **written** not with ink, but **with the Spirit of the Living Elohim**; not in tables of stone, but in **fleshly tables of the heart**. (4) And such trust have we through **Messiah** to **Yahweh**-ward: (5) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of **Yahweh**; (6) **Who** also hath made us able **ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter**, but **of the Spirit**: for **the letter killeth**, but **the Spirit giveth life**. (7) But if **the ministration of death**, written *and* engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which *glory* was to be done away: (8) How shall not the **ministration of the Spirit** be rather glorious? (9) **For if the ministration of condemnation** *be* glory, much more doth the **Ministration of Righteousness** exceed in glory. (10) For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. (11) For if that which is done away *was* glorious, much more that which remaineth *is* glorious

The Apostle Paul told the Assemblies in Galatia that the **old Covenant was added because of transgressions, till the seed [Yahshua] should come to whom the promise was made**. He also mentioned that **the promise by faith of Yahshua Messiah might be given to them that believe**.

Galatians 3 (18) For if the inheritance *be* of the **law**, *it is* no more of **promise**: but **Yahweh gave it to Abraham by promise**. (19) Wherefore then *serveth* the law? **It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was** ordained by angels in the hand of a **Mediator**. (20) Now a **Mediator** is not a **Mediator** of one, but **Yahweh** is one. (21) *Is* the law then against the promises of **Yahweh**? **Yahweh** forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. (22) But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that **the promise by faith of Yahshua Messiah might be given to them that believe**. (23) But before **faith** came, **we were kept under the law**, shut up unto the **faith** which should afterwards be revealed. (24) Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Messiah, that we might be justified by faith**. (25) But **after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster**. (26) For ye are all the children of **Yahweh** by **faith in Messiah Yahshua**.

From the many scriptures above, it is clear that **Believers** are not under **the Old Covenant** but under the **New Covenant**. **Yahshua is now in Heaven as our High Priest forever** after the order of **Melchisedec** as well as the **Mediator of the New Covenant**. Halleluyah!

Throughout the **New Testament**, **Yahweh's Spirit** is enormously important for the Believers comforter, worship of **Yahweh** and their daily walk with Him. On the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter told how to receive it.

Acts (37) Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men *and* Brethren, what shall we do? (38) Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. (39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as **Yahweh** our **Elohim** shall call.

The scripture below is being repeated to show something that some people may not have noticed or understood.

II Corinthians 3 (6) Who also hath made us able **ministers of the New Testament not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life**.

[Back to Articles-2](#) OR [Back to Home Page](#)

This is a two part question: What does the Apostle Paul mean by “**the letter killeth**” and “**the Spirit giveth life?**”

Reminder: I John 3 (4) Whosoever **committeth sin transgresseth also the law**: for **sin is the transgression of the law**.

Part one answer: The **Old Covenant** taught the people what **sin was which is disobedience to Yahweh’s commands**. The **Old Covenant** judgments condemned them and swiftly held them responsible for their sins without a chance to repent. Sounds like the results of the **disobedient partaking of the “Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil!”**

Part two answer: The Apostle wrote in a letter to the **New Covenant** Believers at Rome the following:

Romans 6 22, But now being **made free from sin**, and become servants to **Yahweh**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end **everlasting life**. (23) For **the wages of sin is death; but the gift of Yahweh is Eternal Life through Yahshua Messiah our Sovereign**.

Wow! Sounds like the results of **repented, baptized in the name of Yahshua, Spirit filled, walking in the Spirit, and worshipping in the Spirit obedient Children of Yahweh partaking of the “Tree of Life!”**

Is this matching or mismatching the above with the two special trees in the Garden in Eden? For you to decide.

Genesis 2 (8) And **Yahweh Elohim** planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. (9) And out of the ground made **Yahweh Elohim** to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the “**Tree of Life**” also in the midst of the garden, and the “**Tree of knowledge of good and evil.**” ... (16) And **Yahweh Elohim** commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die.** ... Genesis 3 (22) And **Yahweh Elohim** said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, **lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the “Tree of Life,” and eat, and live for ever:** (23) Therefore, **Yahweh Elohim** sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Did the “**Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**” represent the “**Law of Sin and Death and/or the Old Covenant?**” It seems like it was well demonstrated in the **Old Covenant** given to the **carnal minded Israel**.

Did the “**Tree of Life**” represent the “**Law of the Spirit of Life**” in **Messiah Yahshua** which is the same **Spirit as Yahweh’s Holy Spirit and/or the New Covenant?** It seems like it was well demonstrated in the **New Covenant** given to the **Spiritual minded Believers** in **Yahshua Messiah**.

According to Romans 8:1-2, **To be made free from the “Law of sin and death” is conditional! You have to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.** (That condition was somewhat rarely met before **Yahshua’s** ministry.)

Romans 8 (1) *There is* therefore now **no condemnation to them which are in Messiah Yahshua**, who walk **not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. (2) For the **Law of the Spirit of Life** in **Messiah Yahshua** hath made me free from the “**Law of sin and death.**”

Under the **Old Covenant**, the statutes and judgments condemned the sinners and swiftly held them fully accountable for their sins without a chance to repent. **They had to pay the full penalty even if it was death.**

Under the **New Covenant**, sinners have a chance to repent, be baptized in the name of **Yahshua Messiah** for remission of their past sins and receive **Yahweh’s Holy Spirit**. **Yahweh’s Holy Spirit** is the same **Spirit** as the **Spirit of Life in Messiah Yahshua**. **Yahweh’s laws** are spiritually written in their hearts and in their minds and the **Spirit** guides the Believers and teaches them all truth.

According to Romans 8:3-8, **Yahshua** condemned sin **that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in the Believers**, who walk **not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. The “**Law**” spoken of here is the same as the “**Law of the Spirit of Life**” in **Messiah Yahshua** as in verse 2.

Romans 8 (3) **For what the Law [i.e. Old Covenant] could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, Yahweh**

[Back to Articles-2](#) OR [Back to Home Page](#)

sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) **That the righteousness of the law [law of the Spirit of Life in Messiah Yahshua as in verse 2] might be fulfilled in us**, who walk **not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. (5) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; **but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit**. (6) For **to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is Life and Peace**. (7) Because the **carnal mind is enmity against Yahweh**: for it is not subject to the law of Yahweh, neither indeed can be. (8) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please Yahweh.

According to Romans 8:9-13, a **Believers are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of Yahweh dwell in them. It also states that if **Messiah be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness**.

Romans 8 (9) **But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of Yahweh dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Messiah, he is none of His**. (10) And if **Messiah be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness**. (11) But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Yahshua from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Messiah from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. (12) Therefore, Brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. (13) **For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live**.

Surely, no one can deny that our **Heavenly Father Yahweh** and His **Son Yahshua both** have the same Spirit. Therefore, **Yahweh** also has the **“Law of the Spirit of Life” in Messiah Yahshua** in Himself too.

Below are two examples of how I believe that the **“Law of the Spirit of Life”** works in the **New Covenant Believer**.

Mathew 5 (27) **Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: [Exo. 20:14] (28) But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart**.

I John 3 (15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath **eternal Life** abiding in him. *[The same principle applies as in the verse above.]*

Through the **Power of the Spirit**, the Believer who walks **not after the flesh, but after the Spirit** will immediately turn away when a temptation arises. The Holy Spirit that dwells in the Believer helps by leading his thoughts. The Holy Spirit might remind the Believer of what can happen if he dwelt on the temptation. Example:

James 1 (12) Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which **Yahweh** hath promised to them that love Him. (13) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of **Yahweh**: for **Yahweh** cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: (14) **But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed**. (15) Then **when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death**.

Under the **Old Covenant**, a temptation to commit adultery would be much harder to resist without help from **Yahweh’s Holy Spirit**. Therefore, when adultery was committed then the death penalty was imminent!

Under the New Covenant, a temptation to commit adultery would be much easier to resist with help from **Yahweh’s Holy Spirit**. Halleluyah!

It is just my speculation, but I believe that from Adam to Moses that the people had some form of **Yahweh’s laws** somewhat similar to what was given to Moses even though I find no codified evidence of it. It is likely that it consisted of **The Ten Commandments** along with animal sacrificing as did the Old Covenant. Whatever it consisted of, it seems as if it dealt more with the fleshly and carnally minded people than with the Heavenly Spiritual minded Believers. I believe that all the covenants were built upon the foundation of an **Eternal Law of the Spirit of Life**.

Wither that be true or not I agree with what was written ... Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to **Yahweh**, which giveth us the victory through our **Sovereign Yahshua Messiah**. (from I Corinthians 15:54-57)

Obeying the **Ten Commandments** is our **first priority** to **love and honor Yahweh**.

Matthew 22 (37) **Yahshua** said unto him, **Thou shalt love Yahweh thy Elohim** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. [Deut. 6:5] (38) **This is the first and great commandment.**

Our **First Priority** to **love and honor Yahweh** is laid out in the first five of the **Ten Commandments**.

#1 Thou shalt have no other elohim before **Yahweh**.

#2 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.

#3 Thou shalt not take the name of **Yahweh thy Elohim** in vain.

#4 Remember the **Sabbath** day, to keep it holy.

#5 Honour thy father and thy mother. [*i.e. our Heavenly Father Yahweh and the Mother of us all the New Jerusalem i.e. the Kingdom of Yahweh*]

Our **Second Priority** to **love and honor Yahweh** is laid out in the last six of the **Ten Commandments**.

Matthew 22 (39) **And the second [great commandment] is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself [Leviticus 19:18].** (40) **On these two Commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

#5 Honour thy father and thy mother. [*i.e. our earthly father and mother*]

#6 Thou shalt not kill.

#7 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

#8 Thou shalt not steal.

#9 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

#10 Thou shalt not covet any thing that *is* thy neighbor's.

Obeying the last six of the **Ten Commandments protects our neighbors from us and protects us from our neighbors.**

When we think about all the far reaching tentacles of each one of the **Ten Commandments** and shuffle them back together we again have the following directive.

Thou shalt **love Yahweh thy Elohim** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and **great commandment** and the second **great Commandment is like unto it.** Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself; On these two **Commandments hang all the law and the prophets. HALLELUYAH!**

I ask **Yahweh** and the Brethren that read this article to let anything that I might have incorrect fall by the wayside and not deceive anyone.

Thank you for reading this article and May **Yahweh** bless you abundantly.

[Revised and/or edited in 2026 by T.A.H.]

[Back to Articles-2](#) OR [Back to Home Page](#)

