

Did Yeshua Fulfill and Do Away with God's Commandments?

Christianity uses Matthew 5:17 to say that the Old Testament commandments are done away with. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:17 NKJV, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." I knew of this one Jewish person who was surprised to find out that Yeshua said He did not come to dissolve the law. Because Christianity teaches that the law has been done away with, He had assumed that Yeshua also taught that we are to reject the Old Testament commandments.

The first statement from Matthew 5:17 says that Yeshua did not come to destroy the law, to dissolve God's commandments. It then says in the English that Yeshua came to fulfill. Most Christians think it is saying that Yeshua fulfilled the Old Testament so God's commandments in the Old Testament are done away with. Yeshua has replaced them.

We can test out the Christian meaning of the verse by substituting what Christians believe it is saying. So, some Christians say that Yeshua did not come to dissolve the Old Testament commandments but did away with them. That does not make any sense. It is a contradictory statement. Or what about, Yeshua did not dissolve the Old Testament commandments, He replaced them. That does not make any sense either because it does not even come close to fitting the context. The next verse in Matthew 5:18 NKJV is says, "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." There is still a heaven and an earth, so the law is still in effect. Not all has been fulfilled yet.

None of their contradictions stand up. That is the easiest explanation, but I must warn you, most will not see it because they have been taught error and cannot see their error. Some even call people who believe in the God of the Bible names. So, we must know more so at least we can properly defend the truths of the Bible for ourselves.

Going a Little Deeper

It gets a little more technical now. If you look up the Greek word for "fulfill" in Matthew 5:17, Strong's Dictionary says it means to fill. It is the Greek word, plēroō. The Greek word fulfilled in Matthew 5:18 is an entirely different Greek word that can mean, "to come to pass," according to Strong's Dictionary. So, why did the translators use fulfill in Matthew 5:17 instead of fill? They were perpetuating false doctrine so they could sell Bibles. People do all kinds of wrong things to make money. The Bible says that liars and thieves will go to the lake of fire; see Revelation 21:8 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. They are thieves because they are selling you false goods. Some will go to the lake of fire for their wrong translating.

How did Yeshua come to fill the Torah? One very good explanation is that Yeshua came to give us another helper and fill us with the Holy Spirit. John 14:15-17 NKJV, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth." Believers in the Messiah are filled with the Holy Spirit, see Acts 2:38-39. Shaul said in Ephesians 5:18 NKJV, "Be filled with the Spirit."

So, God gave us His Old Testament commandments to help us. The Bible says they give us wisdom and understanding, see Deuteronomy 4:6, and they are "right and good," see Deuteronomy 6:17-18. God also gave us His good Holy Spirit as another helper.

What other scriptures use the Greek word plēroō? Plēroō is also used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament by the ancient rabbis. The Greek translation of the Old Testament is called the Septuagint. Genesis 1:28 NKJV says, "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth." The word fill in that verse is the Greek word plēroō. Can we say, "Be fruitful and multiply;" fulfill the earth? That does not make any sense. So, the best way to understand the Greek word fill in Matthew 5:17 is that it applies to a filling, the filling associated with the Holy Spirit.

Another way to understand the word fill is to complete a task. This seems to be a little cryptic in thought, but Yeshua completed the task of filling believers with the Holy Spirit. In this case, Yeshua is saying in Matthew 5:17 that the Old Testament commandments will not be done away with, but I am giving you something to complete you. Rabbi Shaul says in Colossians 2:10 NKJV, "And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."

We should also consider the Hebrew word shalom which also means to be complete, have a sound mind, and be at peace. John 14:26-27 NKJV says, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." What is this peace that Yeshua gives us? It is the filling of the Holy Spirit.

The next time someone says to you that Yeshua did away with God's good commandments, you have a short answer that can at least give them something to think about. If they are interested in changing, perhaps the more technical answer can help them. I have also heard some people say that the word fill in Matthew 5:17 has to do with Yeshua living out God's commandments perfectly, and so we do not have to keep God's commandments. He did that for us. Isn't that thoughtless reasoning?

The Bible says we are to imitate Yeshua. So that reasoning makes no sense. He kept the Torah, so we should also keep the Torah. Some say that Yeshua was an example for us. Shaul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." We should live like Yeshua lived and Shaul lived. Romans 3:31 NKJV, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Shaul said the law is not done away with, in fact, he says it is established. It is God who established it.

Christianity was taken over by the pagan Roman Empire and they decided they did not need God's commandments and feasts and made up their own system that is only partly what God and the Messiah taught. That is the rebellion that we inherited and that is the rebellion that is being passed down through Christianity until this day. Why does Christianity keep teaching false doctrine? Some people do not want to keep God's commandments, some believe that the false

doctrine they have learned is good doctrine, and some think that the false interpretations of the scriptures are right doctrine. 2 Peter 1:20 NKJV says, "No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation." So, their false interpretations and theology is a sin. Many Messianic believers have left this false system. I was introduced to the Messiah Yeshua through this false system, but eventually realized that they do not keep what the Bible says to keep. I have decided to do what Bible says to do and what the Messiah Yeshua taught.