

## **Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 56 Christ and the Law (The Sermon on the Mount)**

**February 8, 2026**

This study guide explores the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Old Testament Law as presented in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:17–20). It examines the fulfillment of the judicial, ceremonial, and moral laws through the life, death, and nature of Jesus Christ, while outlining the responsibilities of the modern believer in light of these truths.

### Part I: Short Answer Quiz

1. Based on the introductory prayer and remarks, what are the primary challenges identified for those who present the Word of God, and what is the responsibility of the congregation in response to this teaching?
2. How does the speaker define the preeminence of the Law of God, and what two specific sources of authority confirm its status?
3. In what specific way did Jesus Christ fulfill the Old Testament Law, according to the distinction made between His words, His actions, and His nature?
4. What was the "judicial law" of Israel as described in the text, and why did God establish these specific statutes and ordinances for that nation?
5. According to the lesson, what event marked the "final rejection" of the Messiah by Israel, and what was the immediate consequence for the judicial law?
6. How does the speaker define "replacement theology," and what is the specific theological reason provided for why he rejects this view?
7. Explain the relationship between the Church and the nation of Israel during the current period, and mention what the speaker believes will eventually happen to the Jewish nation.
8. How did Jesus Christ fulfill the Ceremonial Law, and what physical event in the Temple symbolized the end of the Levitical priestly system?
9. Compare the priesthood of Aaron with the priesthood of Jesus Christ in terms of the frequency of entry into the sanctuary and the nature of the sacrifices offered.
10. What is the "righteous requirement of the law" mentioned in Romans 8:4, and what condition must a believer meet to fulfill this requirement today?

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## Part II: Answer Key

**1. Challenges for teachers and the congregation** Presenters of the Word face the challenge of remaining faithful and clear while struggling with the personal reality of sin and the influence of the world. The congregation has the responsibility to pay attention to the Word of God for themselves, allowing the Holy Spirit to open their eyes rather than relying solely on the teacher's ideas.

**2. Preeminence of the Law** The Law is preeminent because it was authored directly by God. Furthermore, its authority and importance were consistently affirmed by the prophets throughout the Old Testament.

**3. Fulfillment through being** Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law not merely by what He said or what He did, but primarily by what He was. As the Messiah, His very nature and existence brought in everlasting righteousness as predicted by the Law.

**4. Judicial Law** The judicial law comprised the legal codes, statutes, and ordinances given specifically to the nation of Israel, such as dietary, agricultural, and dress restrictions. These were "peculiar laws" designed by God to set Israel apart and make them unique from all other nations.

**5. Rejection and the end of the Judicial Law** The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was the final rejection of the Messiah by Israel, which brought the judicial law to a "screeching halt." Consequently, God ceased dealing with Israel as His national people for a time and began building His Church from both Jews and Gentiles.

**6. Replacement Theology** Replacement theology is the belief that the Church has permanently replaced the Jewish nation as God's chosen people. The speaker rejects this because it complicates the understanding of end-times prophecy and ignores the belief that Jesus Christ will one day return to redeem the nation of Israel to its proper position.

**7. The Church and Israel** The Church does not replace Israel but "enhances" it until Israel returns to its rightful position. The Kingdom of God was taken from the nation that rejected the Messiah and given to a new "nation"—the Church—which is expected to bear the fruits of that kingdom.

**8. Fulfillment of the Ceremonial Law** Jesus Christ fulfilled the Ceremonial Law through His death on the cross, which served as the final sacrifice. This was signaled by the veil of the Temple being torn from top to bottom, indicating that the Levitical system was finished and access to the Holy of Holies was no longer barred.

**9. Aaron vs. Jesus Christ** Aaron was a temporary, fallible high priest who entered an earthly tabernacle once a year with the blood of bulls and goats for his own sins and those of the people. In contrast, Jesus Christ is the eternal, infallible High Priest who entered the heavenly temple once for all, offering His own blood as a final sacrifice for the sins of all.

**10. Fulfilling the Moral Law** The "righteous requirement" is the fulfillment of God's moral Law within the believer. This is not automatic but is accomplished when a believer walks

according to the Spirit rather than the flesh, allowing the Christ who fulfilled the Law to live His righteousness through them.

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### Part III: Essay Questions

1. Analyze the three-fold fulfillment of the Law by Jesus Christ: specifically how He fulfilled the judicial law as a victim, the moral law through His life, and the ceremonial law through His death.
2. Discuss the concept of the "Tabernacle" as a "picture" or "type" of Jesus Christ. How do the specific elements, such as the door, the lamps, and the mercy seat, find their reality in the person of Jesus Christ?
3. Contrast the "Old Covenant" with the "New Covenant" as described in the citations from Hebrews. Why was the former described as weak or unprofitable, and what makes the New Covenant a "better hope"?
4. Explore the speaker's concerns regarding "disillusionment" in the ministry and the "laziness" of Christians. How does the "abiding" mentioned in the letters of John serve as a solution to these issues?
5. Explain the responsibility of the believer to "further the kingdom" and "change society." Why does the speaker argue that salvation is not the "end of the hurdle" but rather the beginning of a race or wrestling match?

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### Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

- **Atonement:** The act of Jesus Christ paying the price for sin to reconcile humanity with God.
- **Ceremonial Law:** The Old Testament system of sacrifices, priestly rituals, and Temple worship that served as a "picture" of the coming Messiah.
- **Judicial Law:** The legal codes and ordinances given specifically to the nation of Israel to govern their behavior and distinguish them from neighboring nations.
- **Levitical System:** The priestly system involving the descendants of Levi, characterized by animal sacrifices and the mediation of human priests.
- **Moral Law:** The eternal divine principles of righteousness authored by God that undergird all other laws and remain binding.
- **NKJV (New King James Version):** The specific English translation of the Bible used for all scriptural references in this study.
- **Reformation (Time of):** A New Testament reference indicating the period when the old fleshly ordinances were replaced by the new covenant in Jesus Christ.

- **Sanctification:** The ongoing process of a believer walking with God, becoming more holy and pure, and understanding their own sinfulness through the Holy Spirit.

- **Type/Shadow:** A person, event, or institution in the Old Testament (like the Tabernacle or the Passover) that serves as a prophetic "picture" of Jesus Christ.

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#### Part V: Scriptural Reference Table

The following table outlines the primary scriptures used in the study of Christ and the Law:

| <b>Scripture Reference</b> | <b>Key Theme</b>        | <b>Summary of Text</b>  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Matthew 5:17-20</b>     | Fulfillment of the Law  | Jesus Christ declares He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, not destroy them.                  |
| <b>Psalm 147:19-20</b>     | Uniqueness of Israel    | God gave His statutes and ordinances specifically to Israel, treating them unlike any other nation.   |
| <b>Hebrews 7:18-19</b>     | The Better Hope         | The former commandment was weak; Jesus Christ brings a better hope through which we draw near to God. |
| <b>Hebrews 10:19</b>       | Access to God           | Believers have boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus Christ.                            |
| <b>Romans 8:4</b>          | Walking in the Spirit   | The righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in those who walk according to the Spirit.          |
| <b>Matthew 21:43</b>       | Transfer of the Kingdom | The kingdom is taken from those who rejected the Messiah and given to a nation bearing its fruits.    |