

Lesson Three: Jesus and the Law of Moses

Jesus was born, lived and died under the Law of Moses

Read Galatians 4:4-5

Jesus's ministry was almost exclusively to the Jews.

Occasionally Jesus teaches/ministers to Gentile people (Roman soldiers/officials and the Syro-Phoenician Woman) but these are exceptions.

Jesus did not come to destroy the Law and Prophets—He came to fulfill them. Read Matthew 5:17

How did Jesus fulfill the Law and the Prophets?

1 He fulfilled the _____ of the Law and the Prophets.

2 He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets by keeping them _____.

No one before or after Jesus has rendered perfect obedience to God.

The New Testament teaches that Jesus was without sin. Hebrews 4:15, I Peter 2:21-22

Jesus's perfect obedience to the Father allowed him to take our place on the cross and to die for us as a perfect sacrifice. II Corinthians 5:21

3 He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets by restoring the _____ of the Law. Notice what Jesus says in the verses following Matthew 5:17.

Matthew 5:21-22, 5:27-28

Note: Notice also that Jesus "raises the bar" on several teachings from the Law of Moses. Matthew 5:31-32, 5:33-37, 5:38-39. Since Jesus himself was God he had the authority to change the Law on any point. He is laying the foundation for the New Covenant which would be coming soon.

The Point: Even though the four gospels are included in our New Testaments, we have to read them with discernment. Sometimes Jesus is speaking only to Jewish people who lived under the Old Covenant. For us, the Old Covenant is no longer binding. Sometimes Jesus is giving new teaching which should be seen as part of the New Covenant. As Christians we accept these teachings as binding.