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SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

Did Jesus Do Away With the Old Testament Law?

TEACHING SUMMARY

A common question among believers is whether Jesus abolished the Old Testament law when he died on the cross. The law being discussed is often called the Law of Moses or the Torah. These instructions are found throughout Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Some people believe that because believers are saved by grace, the law is no longer relevant. However, Jesus directly addressed this issue in the Sermon on the Mount.

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus said that he did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. Instead, he came to fulfill them. The word fulfill does not mean to cancel or make obsolete. Rather, it means to bring the law to its full meaning and expression.

Jesus demonstrated the proper interpretation of the law and showed how it should be lived out in daily life. Throughout Matthew 5, he explains the deeper intent of God's commandments.

Jesus also said that not the smallest part of the law would pass away until heaven and earth pass away. This statement emphasizes the lasting significance of the Torah.

In the same passage, Jesus encouraged his followers to do and teach even the least of the commandments. He warned that relaxing these commandments would result in being called least in the kingdom of heaven.

Some passages in the writings of Paul appear to suggest that believers are not under the law. However, Paul also describes the law as holy and good. When Paul's writings are examined in context, it becomes clear that he opposed the misuse of the law as a means of earning salvation.

Paul consistently taught that salvation comes through grace and faith. Obedience to God's law is a response to salvation, not a way to achieve it.

Therefore, the teaching of both Jesus and Paul shows that God's law remains meaningful and valuable for believers today.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Law of Moses is also called the Torah.
 - The Torah includes commandments found in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
 - Jesus said he did not come to abolish the law.
 - Jesus fulfilled the law by demonstrating its true meaning.
 - Not even the smallest part of the law will pass away until heaven and earth pass away.
 - Jesus encouraged his followers to practice and teach the commandments.
 - Paul taught that the law is holy and good.
 - Obedience to the law is a response to salvation, not a means of earning it.
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FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The Law of Moses is also called the _____.
 2. The Torah is recorded in the books of _____, _____, and _____.
 3. Jesus said he did not come to _____ the Law.
 4. Instead, Jesus came to _____ the Law.
 5. Jesus taught that not even the smallest part of the law will pass away until _____ and _____ pass away.
 6. Jesus encouraged his followers to _____ and _____ the commandments.
 7. Paul described the law as _____ and _____.
 8. Salvation comes through _____ and _____.
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Challenging

1. The Greek word translated “abolish” in Matthew 5:17 means to make something no longer _____.
 2. The word “fulfill” means to bring the law to its full _____.
 3. Jesus warned against _____ even the least of the commandments.
 4. Jesus called his followers to a righteousness greater than the _____ and _____.
 5. Paul taught that believers do not overthrow the law through faith but instead _____ it.
 6. Obedience to God’s law should be a _____ to salvation.
 7. The Sermon on the Mount explains the _____ meaning of the law.
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GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think many people believe the law was abolished?
 2. What does it mean that Jesus fulfilled the law?
 3. Why did Jesus emphasize that even the smallest part of the law remains important?
 4. How can believers misunderstand Paul’s writings about the law?
 5. Why is it important to understand the difference between salvation and obedience?
 6. How can believers apply the teachings of the Torah in their lives today?
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ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Torah
2. Exodus / Leviticus / Numbers / Deuteronomy
3. Abolish
4. Fulfill
5. Heaven / Earth
6. Do / Teach
7. Holy / Good
8. Grace / Faith

Challenging

1. In force
2. Meaning
3. Relaxing
4. Scribes / Pharisees
5. Uphold
6. Response
7. True