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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Heaven and Earth & the Law of God

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching examines Yeshua's statement in Matthew 5:17–19 that not one iota or dot will pass from the Law until heaven and earth pass away and all is accomplished. The lesson addresses the common belief that certain commandments, such as the Sabbath or the dietary instructions, passed away because of Messiah's work on the cross. The teaching argues that Yeshua explicitly denied this idea by connecting the permanence of God's Law to the continued existence of heaven and earth. Since heaven and earth still remain, the teaching concludes that God's Law remains in effect as well.

The lesson begins by closely examining Matthew 5:17–19. Yeshua states that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill them. The teaching explains that fulfillment does not mean abolition. Instead, Yeshua identifies two conditions that must be met before any part of the Law can pass away: heaven and earth must pass away, and all that is written in the Law and the Prophets must be accomplished. Since neither condition has yet been fulfilled, the teaching concludes that no portion of God's Law has passed away.

To support this conclusion, the lesson turns to Deuteronomy 30, where Moses calls heaven and earth as witnesses to God's covenant and His commandments. Heaven and earth serve as enduring witnesses that God's Law remains established before His people. This covenant language becomes the foundation for understanding Yeshua's words in Matthew 5. As long as these witnesses remain, the Law they testify to also remains in force. The teaching argues that removing commandments before heaven and earth pass away would contradict the very witnesses God appointed.

The teaching next examines Revelation 21, where John describes the passing away of the first heaven and first earth and the arrival of the new heaven and new earth. At that point God declares, "It is done." The lesson explains that this future event corresponds to

Yeshua's statement that all must be accomplished before anything passes from the Law. Since Revelation places this event at the end of the age, long after the crucifixion and resurrection, the teaching concludes that Yeshua's conditions have not yet been fulfilled. Peter likewise writes after the cross that believers are still waiting for the new heavens and new earth, demonstrating that heaven and earth had not passed away during the apostolic era.

The lesson then addresses the common argument that Yeshua's words, "It is finished," spoken from the cross, mean that the Law came to an end. The teaching argues that this interpretation confuses two different statements made in different contexts. "It is finished" refers to the completion of Messiah's sacrificial work, whereas "all is accomplished" includes the fulfillment of every prophecy contained in the Law and the Prophets. Since prophecy continues beyond the cross and culminates in the new creation described in Revelation, the teaching concludes that the cross did not signal the passing away of God's Law.

The teaching also emphasizes the distinction between salvation and obedience. No one has ever been saved by keeping God's Law. From Adam onward, salvation has always been by grace through faith. Those before Messiah looked forward to God's provision of redemption, while believers today look back to Messiah's completed work. Obedience has never been the means of earning salvation. Instead, obedience is presented as the grateful response of those who have already received God's grace.

Matthew 5:19 is then examined as evidence that Yeshua's focus is on rewards within the Kingdom rather than entrance into the Kingdom. Those who relax even the least of God's commandments and teach others to do likewise will be called least in the Kingdom, while those who practice and teach God's commandments will be called great. The teaching explains that these are not issues of salvation but of eternal reward. Believers who faithfully obey and teach God's instruction receive greater reward because they have been faithful to Messiah's commands.

The lesson continues by connecting Matthew 5 with the Great Commission. Yeshua instructed His disciples to teach the nations to observe everything He had commanded them. Since Yeshua taught the Torah and affirmed its continuing authority, believers are likewise called to teach God's whole instruction. The teaching rejects the idea that Yeshua obeyed the Law so believers no longer need to do so. Instead, Messiah's perfect obedience serves as the example believers should follow, just as His baptism does not eliminate the need for believers to be baptized. Grace covers sin but never encourages continued disobedience.

The lesson also explains that loving God is defined by obedience to His commandments. Deuteronomy and 1 John both teach that love for God is demonstrated by keeping His commands. Just as healthy human relationships require learning how another person desires to be loved, believers are called to love God according to His own definition rather than their own preferences. Obedience therefore becomes the outward evidence of genuine faith and love rather than an attempt to earn God's acceptance.

Finally, the teaching returns to the relationship between heaven, earth, and God's Law. Heaven and earth function as the two witnesses that establish God's covenant according to the biblical principle that every matter is confirmed by two or three witnesses. As long as these witnesses remain, God's Law remains established. Paul likewise teaches that faith does not nullify the Law but establishes it. The lesson concludes by reminding believers that Yeshua, the apostles, and Paul all continued walking according to God's Law after the cross. The New Covenant does not abolish the Torah but writes it upon believers' hearts, producing a desire to obey God's Word. Because heaven and earth still testify to God's covenant, believers are encouraged to continue loving God by faithfully walking in His commandments until all things are finally accomplished.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Yeshua did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets.
 - Nothing from God's Law passes away until heaven and earth pass away.
 - All prophecy must be accomplished before the Law can pass away.
 - Heaven and earth serve as witnesses to God's covenant.
 - Revelation 21 describes the future passing away of heaven and earth.
 - "It is finished" does not mean all prophecy was completed at the cross.
 - Salvation has always been by grace through faith.
 - Obedience is the evidence of salvation, not the means of obtaining it.
 - Matthew 5:19 teaches rewards based on practicing and teaching God's commandments.
 - The Great Commission includes teaching all that Yeshua commanded.
 - Loving God is demonstrated by keeping His commandments.
 - Faith establishes rather than nullifies God's Law.
 - The New Covenant writes God's Law on believers' hearts.
 - Yeshua and the apostles continued walking according to God's Law.
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FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Yeshua said not one _____ or dot will pass from the Law.

2. God's Law remains until heaven and _____ pass away.
3. Heaven and earth serve as _____ to God's covenant.
4. Salvation has always been by _____ through faith.
5. Obedience is the _____ of salvation.
6. Matthew 5:19 speaks about rewards in the _____.
7. Believers are commanded to teach everything Yeshua _____.
8. The New Covenant writes God's Law on believers' _____.

Challenging

1. Deuteronomy 30 calls heaven and _____ as witnesses.
2. Revelation 21 describes the arrival of the new heaven and new _____.
3. Peter wrote that believers are still waiting for the new heavens and new _____.
4. Romans 3:31 teaches that faith _____ the Law.
5. The Great Commission commands believers to make _____ of all nations.
6. According to 1 John 5, loving God means keeping His _____.
7. Two or three _____ establish a matter.
8. Yeshua said those who teach even the least commandments will be called _____ in the Kingdom.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Yeshua connected the permanence of God's Law with heaven and earth?
 2. How does Deuteronomy 30 help explain Matthew 5:17–19?
 3. What is the difference between "It is finished" and "all is accomplished"?
 4. Why is it important to distinguish between salvation and obedience?
 5. What do Matthew 5:19 and the Great Commission teach about discipleship?
 6. How does understanding heaven and earth as witnesses strengthen your understanding of God's covenant?
 7. In what ways does obedience demonstrate love for God rather than earn His favor?
 8. How should the promise of the New Covenant shape the way believers view God's Law today?
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ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Iota
2. Earth
3. Witnesses
4. Grace
5. Evidence
6. Kingdom
7. Commanded
8. Hearts

Challenging

1. Earth
2. Earth
3. Earth
4. Establishes
5. Disciples
6. Commandments
7. Witnesses
8. Great