

## BFF295 JESUS CAME NOT TO DESTROY THE LAW BUT TO FULFILL IT

Jesus said that "everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms, must be fulfilled."

Today we're going to pick up where we left off last time. We're talking more about how God, as it says in Jeremiah 1:12, is watching over His word to perform it.

Let's pray before we go any further. Father help us to really sense the importance of those words that You are watching over Your word to preform it. Give me the ability to speak well. Help me to hear Your spirit as I'm speaking. Give us all ears to hear what's your word and what you're communicating to us today in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** If I was to ask the question, "Why did Jesus come, or what was the purpose of his coming?" there'd probably a lot of answers. People would say, "He came to give us eternal life. He came to bear our sin. He came to give us forgiveness of sins. He came to give us eternal life."

There's lots of things that we could think of, benefits of Christ coming. What if the Father and the Son, in addition to that, are operating at an even higher plane? What if there's more at stake than what we see in his coming for us as Christians.

He came to destroy the works of evil. It says in 1 John. Lots of reasons why Jesus came. I think that this has spoken to my heart that there is an additional plane that God, the Father, and God, the Son are operating upon.

In Matthew 5, in the Sermon on the Mount. He says, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot will pass away from the law until all is accomplished."

He didn't come to abolish the law or the prophets unlike what many people say. He says, "I didn't come to abolish them but to fulfill them." When He talks about the iota and the dot, we would say in modern English, "to the letter."

Fulfill is the Greek word, "pleeroo," which is number 4137, if you want to look this up in your "Strong's Concordance." We've quoted this before.

At the end of Luke, Jesus is talking to the two men on the road to Emmaus. He said, "Oh, foolish ones, slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken."

He goes on to say, "Was it not necessary that the Christ suffered these things and entered into his glory?" Beginning with Moses and all the prophets he interpreted to them in all the scriptures to things concerning himself. Notice how many times He said, "All the prophets." What a Bible study that would have been.

A few verses later he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you, while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms, must be fulfilled." That's worth reading again.

"Everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." There you get that word "fulfill" again. Then it goes on to say, "He opened their minds to understand the scriptures." This is Luke 24:44-45.

In John 5, "The works that the Father has given Me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about Me that the Father has sent Me. And the Father who sent Me has himself borne witness about Me. His voice you have never heard, His form you have never seen, and you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe the One whom He has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me." (John 5:36-39)

This year, I started in January, as is my want, and I started reading through the Old Testament and Genesis, while simultaneously reading through Matthew in the New Testament. I started writing in my journal all the places where the word "fulfill" was used, just because they were jumping off the page of me.

In the first couple chapters in Matthew, I found one, two, three, four, five places where the word "fulfill" was used. I'm going to read them.

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)." (Matthew 1:21-23) – (Referencing Isaiah 7:14)

Matthew 2, "(Wise men) told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." (Matthew 2:5-6) – (Referencing Micah 5:2)

**(Joseph) "rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'" (Matthew 2:14-15) – (Referencing Hosea 11:1)**

**"Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." (Matthew 2:17-18) – (Referencing Jeremiah 31:15)**

"Being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene." (Matthew 2:22-23) – (Referencing Isaiah 40:3)

**It seems that the primary objective of Jesus was to fulfill every jot and tittle spoken of by the prophets, by Moses, by the psalmist, all of these that the Holy Spirit had**

carefully orchestrated. God was watching over these Scriptures to see that they would be fulfilled. That's exactly what he says in Jeremiah 1.

By the way, that's only a page and a half. I have two and a half more pages. It is amazing how many times this word "fulfill" is used. Sometimes it's not used, but it's implied.

Matthew 4, "When He heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.'" (Matthew 4:12–16) – (Referencing Isaiah 9:1–2)

Matthew 8, "When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases." (Matthew 8:14–17) – (Referencing Isaiah 53:4)

Matthew 12, "Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all and ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope." (Matthew 12:13–21) – (Referencing Isaiah 42:1–4)

Matthew 13 "This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: 'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.'" (Matthew 13:13–14) – (Isaiah 6:9–10)

Also in Matthew 13, "He told them another parable. 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.' All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: 'I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.'" (Matthew 13:33–35) – (Psalm 78:2)

You know the account of when they were about to enter Jerusalem, and He said, "Go find a colt and locate a place to prepare for the Lord's Supper."

"When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" (Matthew 21:1-5) - (Isaiah 62:11, Zechariah 9:9)

When they were in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter, seeking to defend Jesus, pulls out his sword, cuts off the ear of the servant of the high priest.

Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." (Matthew 26:52-56), (not sure of one specific passage)

Matthew 27, "Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.'" (Matthew 27:9-10) - (Referencing Jeremiah 11:12-13)

I remember being taught, that the Gospel of Matthew was written for the Jewish community. I don't know if it's accurate or not, but there are many scriptures in Matthew about how Jesus came to fulfill the law. For people that knew the Law and the Prophets and the Psalms, these passages would have been familiar to them.

I'm going to read from Luke, and then John, and you're going to see that all these passages are fulfilling what God had said about His son.

"He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." and He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:18–21) – (Referencing Isaiah 61:1–2)

This must have been amazing. Those people got up that morning and prepared themselves to go to synagogue, not knowing that they were about to see the Son of God fulfill that exact scripture. He sat down, and said, "This scripture has just been fulfilled while you've been listening. I am the Messiah." Wow!

Luke 21. We talked about this a little bit last time after the broadcast about the difficult times in the last days. "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Luke 21:20–24) – (Referencing Revelation 11:2)

**John 12**, "Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in Him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" (John 12:37–38)

John 13, speaking of the betrayer, Judas. "I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' (John 13:18) – (Referencing Psalm 41:9) Then he gave him bread at the Lord's Supper. There it was. He said that, gave him the bread, he went out, and betrayed him. Awful.

John 15, "Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'" (John 15:23–25) – (Referencing Psalm 35:19, 69:4)

"While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled." (John 17:12) – (Referencing – "Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him." (John 6:70–71))

There it is. You know what He was talking about? They were about to take the twelve disciples them in the garden. Jesus said, "No, let them go."

John 18. “He asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” (John 18:7–9) – (Referencing John 17:12, 6:39)

Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.” (John 18:31–32) – (Referencing Matthew 20:19, John 3:14, 12:32)

Even at His crucifixion, “They said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things.” (John 19:24) – (Referencing Psalm 22:18)

Now, here's the wrap up. This is amazing to me. Jesus is hanging on the cross, dying, experiencing incredible pain still is intent on fulfilling Scripture. “After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said “To fulfill the scripture (I thirst).”

He knew that His work was completed, or fulfilled, from the Greek word is “telos” #5055 in Strong’s. He knew that he had done the work that God had given him to do. He knew that he had fulfilled all the scriptures about Him to the jot and the tittle. He knew that he had absolutely done everything according to the letter of the law and the prophets and the psalms.

“After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:28–30) – Referencing – “They also gave me gall for my food And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” (Psalm 69:21 NASV)

This seems like such a small thing, and yet not to Jesus, Who was seeking to fulfill, to the point, the letter, everything His Father has said, Who is watching over His word to perform every jot and tittle. The two of them are working in marvelous tandem.

Even after he died, watch this. “They came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness— his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” (John 19:33–36) (Referencing – Psalm 34:20, Numbers 9:12)

Another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” (John 19:37) (Referencing – Zechariah 12:10)

Do you see the painstaking attention to detail, that God the Father watching over His inspired word, and Jesus, the son, the word lived out, the word fulfilled, the word accomplished, the word made flesh. He was indeed the truth.

I used to always look at it a little differently. I'm looking at it now through this lens that God, if you remember what we read before, He has esteemed above all things, His word, and His name.

I hope that God will help us to take that right into our heart of hearts, in our minds, in our spirits that we need to revere His name. We need to honor His name, but we also have to revere His word and honor His word because not one jot or one tittle is going to fall to the earth until He's fulfilled it.

We're living in times when there are still passages that have not been fulfilled to the letter. I hope that God will just give us a hunger to read His word and believe His word, and to pray for the fulfillment of the scriptures. Amen.

**Scott:** There's this analogy that keeps coming back to me, that it just feels like the perfect symphony by the perfect composer. There are moments that are really dark. There are notes that feel like they aren't going to fit in. There's things that you can't possibly see how this is all going to resolve perfectly, and then it does. I feel like that's the way God does everything.

He can do something giant that's taking place over the whole world, and yet it's significant to each individual person. Things are orchestrated that fulfill what He wants done for my life, and for yours, and for everybody's.

**Steve:** Beautifully said. Thank you. It is a perfect symphony. It's going to have a perfect fulfillment and a perfect consummation because that's who God is.

I've been getting comfort from the picture in my mind that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, expecting to all His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. He is not wringing His hands.

He's not walking back and forth, and pacing. He is seated. He is confident that all things are going to be accomplished, because He's watching over His word to perform it.

It's a perfect symphony. There's lots of chords out there that we don't know how they're all going to connect, but one day when we get to heaven, we're going to look back and we're going to say, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow. You have done beautifully, and I have nothing to say but thank You and I worship You." Amen.

**Scott:** Hallelujah.

**Steve:** Father, thank You for Your word that You have given to us. We have bookshelves full of them. Give us an appetite to read them and devour those words. Help us in a special way to take in, to import every word. Man does not live by bread

alone but by every word. Help us to get that every word into our being, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Steve:** I know we're going a little bit long, but I got to tell you this story. Today is September 21st. People won't hear this 'til October. September 20th, I usually mention this every year, is my anniversary of having read the Bible through, cover to cover. I started September 20th, 1976. I'm on my 45th time through.