THE QUESTION

What did Jesus mean by fulfilling the law in Matthew 5:17–20?

Asked by a THF member on November 1, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 7 numbered quotations · the 33 early Christian passages and 263 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-jesus-mean-by-fulfilling-the-law-in-matthew-5-17-20

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early writers say Jesus did not throw out the Law and the Prophets but completed them. He did what they foretold and deepened their moral commands. Our righteousness goes beyond the Pharisees' when we believe in the Son, do what we teach, and turn away even from the desire for sin.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 7

Christ fulfilled what the prophets foretold

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says the prophets would have been proven false if Christ had not come exactly as they described. By His coming He fulfilled their words, and He keeps fulfilling the new covenant in the Church.

1

> "For by His coming, He Himself fulfilled all things and continues to fulfill in the Church the new covenant foretold by the law, onward to the completion of all things."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 7, page 5 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 2 OF 7

The law was fulfilled, not abolished

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions answer those who said Jesus did away with the law. Moses and Elijah stood with Christ at the transfiguration as friends, not enemies. So the law and the prophets are good and holy.

2

> "For He nowhere has abolished the law, as Simon claims, but fulfilled it."
>
> *later in the same passage*
>
> "From this it is shown that the law is good and holy, and so are the prophets."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 22, page 6 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 3 OF 7

The Old and New Testaments agree

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius gives a simple key for reading the Old Testament. The two Testaments do not fight each other. The New completes the Old, and Christ stands behind both.

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3 “Yet they are not in conflict, for the New is the fulfillment of the Old. And in both there is the same testator, that is, Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 20 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 31, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Jesus deepened the moral commands

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus points to the sayings that follow in the same sermon. Do not commit adultery becomes do not even look with lust; do not kill becomes do not be angry. He says these extend the old commands rather than overturn them.

4 “For all these do not imply an opposition to or overturning of the principles of the past, as Marcion's followers strongly assert; rather, they show a fulfilling and extension of them, as He Himself declares: "Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 6, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

How our righteousness exceeds the Pharisees'

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus explains the greater righteousness in three steps. We believe in the Son as well as the Father. We do what we say, unlike those who spoke but did not act. And we turn away not only from evil deeds but from wanting them.

5 “Next, we must not only speak but also act; for they spoke but did not act.”

later in the same passage

“And we must not only abstain from evil deeds but even from the desire for them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 6, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 6 OF 7

Even the least commands are Christ's to set

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Cyprian quotes Matthew 5:19 while correcting a church practice. His point is that we may not set aside even a small command of the Lord because of human custom. We follow what Christ did and taught.

6

"Therefore, if Christ alone must be heard, we ought not to pay attention to what another person before us may have thought should be done, but to what Christ, who is before all, first did."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 18, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 7 OF 7

Early teaching carried the commands into daily life

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

The Didache shows how the commandments were taught to early believers. Beside murder and theft, it lists lying, grudges, hate and double speech. Words were to be matched by actions.

7

"Your speech shall not be false or empty, but fulfilled by deed."

later in the same passage

"You shall not hate any man. But some you shall reprove, and concerning some you shall pray, and some you shall love more than your own life."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 2 (c. 50–120 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 1, page 5 Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not list exactly which commands Jesus meant by the least ones.
- They do not explain in detail which parts of the Old Testament worship still bind Christians today.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 33 early Christian passages and 263 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–33, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 34–188, in Bible order), then 108 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *33 passages from 15 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** "the second commandment of the Teaching; You shall not commit murder, you shall not commit adultery, Exodus 20:13-14 you shall not commit pederasty, you shall not commit fornication… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English; on point 1) "any one makes light of the law or the prophets, which Christ fulfilled at His coming, let him be to thee as antichrist… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 1) "those things which the prophets announced, saying, "Until He come for whom it is reserved, and He shall be the expectation of the Gentiles," have been fulfilled in the Gospel… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 4*

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 3) "this is for all universally. Now, law placed against law has abrogated that which is before it, and a covenant which comes after in like manner has put an end… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 5*

5 *Diatessaron* 8 (1885 English; on point 6) "5:19 Every one who shall violate now one of these small commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called lacking in the kingdom of heaven: every one that… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 6–10*

6 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quotes 4, 5, page 3** justified by faith and who pleased God observed before the law was given—but instead extended and fulfilled them, is shown by His words. "For," He said, "it has been… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quote 1, page 2** "Lord if Christ, at His coming, was not exactly as He had been previously described and had not fulfilled their words. Therefore, He said, "Do not think that I have… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 1) "For the new covenant having been known and preached by the prophets, He who was to carry it out according to the good pleasure of the Father was also preached… [continues online] **read ›**

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9 *Against Heresies: Book IV* law of divorce, tailored to their hard nature. But why do I mention these things concerning the Old Testament? For in the New Testament, the apostles were also found doing… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 1) “had come to fulfil it: wherefore “the law and the prophets were” with them “until John.” And therefore Jerusalem, taking its commencement from David, and fulfilling its own times, must… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 11–14*

11 *Against Marcion* 9 (on point 1) “by the Creator, and indeed foretold in the promise of the new Law, the new Word, and the new Testament. However, since he carefully quotes, as proof for his own… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Against Marcion* 8 (on point 3) its replacement by the gospel gives no argument for another god. For this was indeed predicted in Christ, and ordained for His Christ in the Creator's own plans. But… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Marcion* 36 (1885 English; on point 2) “verity of the gospel then stands unimpaired: I am not come to destroy the law and the prophets, but rather to fulfil them… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Marcion* 38 (on point 2) “50:4 Now if this is to destroy the prophets, what will… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 15*

15 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “the Lord says, I am not come to destroy the law and the prophets, but to fulfil them… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 16*

16 *Commentary on Matthew* 10 (on point 3) “the net of the law and the prophets had to be completed… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 17*

17 *On the Jewish Meats* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) “also, those ten commandments on the tables teach nothing new, but remind them of what had been obliterated — that righteousness in them, which had been put to sleep, might revive… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · source 18*

18 *Epistles* **Quote 6, page 4** “5:19 But if we may not break even the least of the Lord's commandments, how much… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 19–23*

19 *Apostolic Constitutions* we shall be saved, just as they will. For the Lord has loosed us from our bonds, made our burden light, and removed the heavy yoke from us by His… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 2) “He so abrogated them as that He first fulfilled them… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 6) he says: Whosoever shall do and teach, he shall be called great in the kingdom of God… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 2, page 2** “He says, "One iota, or one tittle, shall not pass from the… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 1) He might deliver those who were subject to them from the wrath reserved for them, that He might fulfill the Law and the Prophets, and that He might remove or… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 24–26*

24 *Disputation with Manes* 1 the righteous, get their righteousness, when there was not yet any law of Moses, and when the prophets had not yet arisen and carried out the work of prophecy? Were… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Disputation with Manes* 1 “also to what I have to say about this other phrase that has been brought forward: "Christ, who redeemed us from the curse of the law." My understanding of this… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 3) grace for grace. For he indicates that we have received the law of Moses out of the fullness of Christ. And he means that, for that one grace, this other… [continues online] **read ›**

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Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 27–28*

27 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “I came not to destroy the law, or the prophets, but to fulfil them, the Saviour Himself said in the Gospel… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Concerning Free Will* 1 (on point 2) “I came not to destroy the law or the prophets… [continues online] **read ›**

Victorinus, *c. 270–303 AD · sources 29–30*

29 *Commentary on the Apocalypse* (on point 1) from which they may draw their life. For unless what the prophets foretold had been completed in Christ, their preaching was empty. The Catholic Church holds to those things that… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Commentary on the Apocalypse* (on point 1) executioner’s duty, He was called as if He had been slain. Therefore He opens and seals again the testament that He Himself had sealed. Moses the lawgiver pointed to… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 31–33*

31 *Divine Institutes* 20 **Quote 3, page 3** “all Scripture is divided into two Testaments. What came before the coming and suffering of Christ—that is, the Law and the Prophets—is called the Old. But the things… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Divine Institutes* 20 (1885 English; on point 3) “Moses, and the prophets also themselves, call the law which was given to the Jews a testament: for unless the testator shall have died, a testament cannot be confirmed… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Divine Institutes* 17 (1885 English) “is, that He did not rest on the Sabbath, but laboured for the good of men… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *155 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

34 **Genesis 14:3** All these joined together at the salt valley; this is the Sea of Salt. **read ›**

35 **Genesis 49:18** waiting for the salvation of the Lord. **read ›**

36 **Exodus 20:17** You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife; you shall not covet your neighbor’s house, nor his field, nor his servant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his beast of burden, nor any of his cattle, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor.” **read ›**

37 **Exodus 23:13** Keep all that I have said to you; and you shall make no mention of the name of other gods, nor ever let it be heard out of your mouth. **read ›**

38 **Exodus 34:13** You shall pull down their altars, break their pillars in pieces, and cut down their groves; and the carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. **read ›**

39 **Leviticus 2:13** Every gift of your sacrifice shall be salted with salt. You shall not leave out the salt of the covenant of the Lord from your sacrifices; with every gift of yours you shall offer salt to the Lord your God. **read ›**

40 **Leviticus 7:37** This is the law of the whole burnt offerings, and of the sacrifice, and of the sin offering, and of the guilt offering, and of the consecration, and of the peace offering, **read ›**

41 **Leviticus 24:7** On each row you shall put pure frankincense and salt, and they shall be for the loaves, for a remembrance, set before the Lord. **read ›**

42 **Leviticus 26:15** but disobey them, and if your soul loathes my judgments, so that you do not do all my commandments, so as to break my covenant, **read ›**

43 **Leviticus 27:34** These are the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses for the children of Israel on Mount Sinai. **read ›**

44 **Numbers 18:19** Every portion set apart from the holy things, whatever the children of Israel set apart for the Lord, I have given to you and to your sons and your daughters with you, a perpetual ordinance; it is a covenant of everlasting salt before the Lord, for you and for your seed after you.” **read ›**

45 **Numbers 33:52** You shall destroy all who dwell in the land before your face, and you shall remove their watchtowers; all their molten idols you shall destroy, and all their pillars you shall remove. **read ›**

46 **Numbers 36:13** These are the commandments, the ordinances, and the judgments that the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses on the west of Moab by the Jordan near Jericho. **read ›**

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47 **Deuteronomy 4:2** You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take away from it; keep the commandments of the Lord our God, all that I command you today. **read ›**

48 **Deuteronomy 5:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

49 **Deuteronomy 5:21** You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; you shall not covet your neighbor's house, nor his field, nor his servant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his beast of burden, nor any of his cattle, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor." **read ›**

50 **Deuteronomy 6:17** You shall surely keep the commandments of the Lord your God, the testimonies and the ordinances that he commanded you. **read ›**

51 **Deuteronomy 7:5** But this is what you shall do to them: you shall pull down their altars, break in pieces their pillars, cut down their groves, and burn the carved images of their gods with fire. **read ›**

52 **Deuteronomy 7:11** So you shall keep the commandments and the ordinances and these judgments that I command you today, to do them. **read ›**

53 **Deuteronomy 7:23** And the Lord your God will deliver them into your hands, and you shall destroy them with a great destruction, until you have utterly destroyed them. **read ›**

54 **Deuteronomy 8:11** Be careful lest you forget the Lord your God, so as not to keep his commandments and his judgments and his ordinances that I command you today; **read ›**

55 **Deuteronomy 10:13** to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his ordinances that I command you today, that it may be well with you? **read ›**

56 **Deuteronomy 12:3** You shall tear down their altars, smash their pillars, cut down their groves, and burn the carved images of their gods with fire, and you shall destroy their name from that place. **read ›**

57 **Deuteronomy 13:1** If a prophet or one who dreams a dream arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (Septuagint Deuteronomy 13:2 (Deuteronomy 13:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

58 **Deuteronomy 27:10** and you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and do all his commandments and his ordinances, which I command you today. **read ›**

59 **1 Kings 2:3** and keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, to keep his commandments and ordinances and judgments that are written in the law of Moses, so that you may understand what you do in all that I command you, **read ›**

60 **2 Kings 2:20** And Elisha said, "Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it." And they took it and brought it to him. **read ›**

61 **2 Kings 2:21** And Elisha went out to the outlet of the waters and threw salt there, and said, "Thus says the Lord: I have healed these waters; there shall no longer be death or barrenness from there." **read ›**

62 **2 Kings 17:13** Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah by the hand of all his prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my ordinances, and all the law that I commanded your fathers, all that I sent to them by the hand of my slaves the prophets." **read ›**

63 **1 Chronicles 16:10** Give praise in his holy name; the heart that seeks his good pleasure shall rejoice. **read ›**

64 **Ezra 8:12** of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him one hundred and ten males; **read ›**

65 **Ezra 9:8** And now our God has been gracious to us, to leave us a remnant for salvation and to give us a support in the place of his sanctuary, to enlighten our eyes and to give us a little reviving in our slavery. **read ›**

66 **Job 2:13** They sat beside him seven days and seven nights, and none of them spoke; for they saw that the blow was terrible and very great. **read ›**

67 **Psalms 13:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

68 **Ecclesiastes 2:18** And I hated all my labor at which I toil under the sun, because I leave it to the man who comes after me. **read ›**

69 **Song of Solomon 2:8** The voice of my kinsman! Behold, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. **read ›**

70 **Isaiah 2:18** And they shall hide away all the handmade gods, **read ›**

71 **Isaiah 10:23** He is completing and cutting short a word in righteousness; for the Lord will carry out a word cut short in the whole world. **read ›**

72 **Isaiah 43:28** And the rulers defiled my sanctuary; and I gave Jacob over to destruction, and Israel to taunts. **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 4:7** A lion has come up from his den; utterly destroying nations, he has set out, and he has gone out from his place to make the land a desolation; and the cities shall be torn down, so that no one lives in them. **read ›**

74 **Jeremiah 18:2** Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there you will hear my words. **read ›**

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75 **Jeremiah 36:6** So you shall read from this scroll in the ears of the people in the house of the Lord, on a day of fasting; and you shall read to them in the ears of all Judah who come from their cities. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:6 (Jeremiah 36:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

76 **Ezekiel 6:6** and in all your dwelling place. The cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be made to vanish, so that your altars may be utterly destroyed, and your idols shall be broken in pieces, and your shrines removed. **read ›**

77 **Ezekiel 30:4** And a sword shall come upon the Egyptians, and there shall be turmoil in the land of Ethiopia, and the wounded shall fall together in Egypt, and her foundations shall fall. **read ›**

78 **Ezekiel 37:15** And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, **read ›**

79 **Daniel 3:9** “O king, live forever! **read ›**

80 **Daniel 4:18** This is the dream that I, Nebuchadnezzar the king, saw; and as for you, Belteshazzar, tell its interpretation, for none of the wise men of my kingdom are able to make its interpretation clear to me; but you, Daniel, are able, for the Holy Spirit of God is in you.” **read ›**

81 **Daniel 11:31** And seeds from him shall arise, and they shall profane the sanctuary of might, and remove the continual offering, and set up an abomination made desolate. **read ›**

82 **Hosea 11:7** And his people hang from his dwelling; and God shall be angry with his precious things, and shall certainly not exalt him. **read ›**

83 **Obadiah 1:1** The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God to Idumea: I have heard a report from the Lord, and he has sent out a summons to siege among the nations: “Arise, and let us rise up against her to war.” **read ›**

84 **Micah 2:3** Therefore thus says the Lord: Behold, I am devising evils against this tribe, from which you shall certainly not lift your necks, and you shall certainly not suddenly walk upright; for it is an evil time. **read ›**

85 **Micah 7:9** I will bear the anger of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he justifies my cause; and he will execute judgment for me and bring me out to the light; I shall see his righteousness, **read ›**

86 **1 Esdras 5:51** They kept the Feast of Tabernacles as it is commanded in the law, and offered sacrifices daily, as was fitting; **read ›**

87 **1 Esdras 5:52** and after that, the continual offerings, and the sacrifices of the Sabbaths and of the new moons and of all the holy feasts. **read ›**

88 **1 Esdras 8:12** that they may look into the affairs of Judea and Jerusalem in keeping with what is in the law of the Lord, **read ›**

89 **1 Esdras 8:94** as has been decided by you and by all who obey the law of the Lord. **read ›**

90 **1 Esdras 9:8** Now therefore make confession and give glory to the Lord God of our fathers, **read ›**

91 **Tobit 12:6** Then the angel called the two aside privately and said to them, “Bless God and give thanks to him; give greatness to him, and give thanks to him before all the living for what he has done for you. It is good to bless God and to exalt his name, telling with honor of the works of God; and do not be slow to give thanks to him. **read ›**

92 **Tobit 13:4** There make known his greatness; exalt him before every living thing, for he is our Lord, and God himself is our Father forever. **read ›**

93 **Judith 2:13** And you shall not transgress a single one of the words of your lord, but you shall surely accomplish them, as I have commanded you, and you shall not delay to do them.” **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:26** For she is a radiance of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:7** a smoking wasteland still stands as a witness to their evil, and plants bearing fruit that never ripens; a pillar of salt standing as a memorial of an unbelieving soul. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:1** But for your holy ones there was very great light; and the others, hearing their voice but not seeing their form, counted them blessed because they too had suffered, **read ›**

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97 **Wisdom of Sirach 1:1** Since many great things have been given to us through the Law and the Prophets and the others who followed after them, for which Israel ought to be praised for its instruction and wisdom; and since not only must those who read become knowledgeable themselves, but lovers of learning must also be able to be of use to those outside, both by speaking and by writing: my grandfather Jesus, having given himself more and more to the reading of the Law and the Prophets and the other books of our fathers, and having gained considerable skill in them, was himself also led to write something pertaining to instruction and wisdom, so that lovers of learning, having become devoted to these things as well, might make still greater progress by living according to the law. You are urged, therefore, to read with goodwill and attention, and to be forgiving wherever, despite our diligent labor in translating, we may seem to fall short in some of the expressions; for what is said in Hebrew does not have the same force when it is brought over into another language. And not only these things, but the Law itself and the prophecies and the rest of the books differ not a little when they are spoken in their own language. For in the thirty-eighth year, in the reign of King Euergetes, having come into Egypt and stayed there some time, I found a copy of no small instruction; and I myself thought it most necessary to apply some diligence and labor to the translation of this book, bringing much watchfulness and skill to it in that space of time, in order to complete the book and publish it also for those living abroad who wish to love learning, preparing their character beforehand to live according to the law. All wisdom is from the Lord, and is with him forever. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:16** Those who fear the Lord will seek his good pleasure, and those who love him will be filled with the law. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:28** My child, glorify your soul in meekness, and give it honor according to its worth. **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:14** He will make room for every act of mercy; each one will find according to his works. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:7** Remember the commandments, and do not bear wrath against your neighbor; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook ignorance. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:8** He will make plain the instruction of his teaching, and he will boast in the law of the covenant of the Lord. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:16** All the works of the Lord are very good, and every command will come to pass in its time. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:23** So the nations will inherit his anger, as he turned waters into brine. **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:2** of the law of the Most High and of the covenant, and of judgment, to justify the ungodly; **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:16** The sun that gives light looks down on all things, and its work is full of his glory. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:25** One confirms the good things of the other, and who will be filled with beholding his glory? **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 43:9** the beauty of heaven, the glory of the stars, an ornament giving light in the highest places of the Lord. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 43:28** When we glorify him, how shall we have strength? For he is the Great One, above all his works. **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:20** who kept the law of the Most High and entered into a covenant with him; and in his flesh he established a covenant, and when tested he was found faithful. **read ›**

113 **Wisdom of Sirach 48:8** you anointed kings for retribution, and prophets as successors after him; **read ›**

114 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:29** For if he does them, he will be strong for all things, for the light of the Lord is his path. A Prayer of Jesus the son of Sirach **read ›**

115 **Baruch 2:2** and against the men of Israel and Judah, to bring upon us great evils, such as have not been done under the whole heaven, as he has done in Jerusalem, according to what is written in the law of Moses, **read ›**

116 **Baruch 3:20** Younger men have seen the light and dwelt upon the earth, but they have not known the way of knowledge, **read ›**

117 **Baruch 3:33** he who sends out the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him with trembling; **read ›**

118 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:60** For sun and moon and stars, being bright and sent out for service, are obedient. **read ›**

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119 **1 Maccabees 1:45** and to forbid whole burnt offerings and sacrifice and drink offering in the sanctuary, and to profane Sabbaths and feasts, **read ›**

120 **1 Maccabees 1:49** so that they would forget the law and change all the ordinances. **read ›**

121 **1 Maccabees 2:68** Repay the nations with repayment, and pay attention to the statutes of the law." **read ›**

122 **2 Maccabees 2:18** as he promised through the Law. For we hope in God that he will soon have mercy on us and gather us from everywhere under heaven into the holy place, for he has rescued us from great evils and has purified the place. **read ›**

123 **2 Maccabees 15:9** Encouraging them from the Law and the Prophets, and reminding them also of the struggles they had seen through, he made them more eager. **read ›**

124 **2 Maccabees 15:34** And toward heaven they all blessed the Lord who had appeared, saying, "Blessed is he who has kept his own place undefiled!" **read ›**

125 **3 Maccabees 2:8** And when they saw the works of your hand, they praised you, the Almighty. **read ›**

126 **3 Maccabees 5:43** and to march against Judea and quickly level it to the ground with fire and spear, and swiftly to burn to the ground with fire their temple that is inaccessible to us, and to make it empty for all time of those who offer sacrifices there. **read ›**

127 **4 Maccabees 12:17** "I do not desert the testimony of my brothers. **read ›**

128 **4 Maccabees 18:10** While he was still with you, he used to teach you the Law and the Prophets. **read ›**

129 **1 Enoch 10:16** And destroy all unrighteousness from the earth, and let every work of evil come to an end; and let the plant of righteousness and truth appear forever; it shall be planted with joy. **read ›**

130 **1 Enoch 10:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

131 **1 Enoch 36:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

132 **1 Enoch 39:6** And in that place my eyes saw the Elect One of righteousness and of faith; and righteousness shall prevail in his days, and the righteous and chosen shall be without number before him forever and ever. **read ›**

133 **1 Enoch 41:2** And there I saw the dwelling places of the chosen ones and the dwelling places of the holy; and my eyes saw there all the sinners who deny the name of the Lord of Spirits being driven from there and being dragged off; and they could not remain because of the punishment which goes out from the Lord of Spirits. **read ›**

134 **1 Enoch 41:8** For the sun often changes for a blessing or a curse, and the course of the path of the moon is light to the righteous and darkness to the sinners in the name of the Lord, who made a separation between the light and the darkness, and divided the spirits of men, and strengthened the spirits of the righteous, in the name of his righteousness. **read ›**

135 **1 Enoch 53:2** And their hands commit lawless deeds, and the sinners devour all whom they lawlessly oppress; yet the sinners shall be destroyed before the face of the Lord of Spirits, and they shall be banished from the face of his earth, and they shall perish forever and ever. **read ›**

136 **1 Enoch 58:3** And the righteous shall be in the light of the sun, and the chosen ones in the light of eternal life; the days of their life shall be unending, and the days of the holy without number. **read ›**

137 **1 Enoch 81:3** And at once I blessed the great Lord, the King of glory forever, in that he has made all the works of the world. And I exalted the Lord because of his patience, and blessed him because of the children of men. **read ›**

138 **1 Enoch 89:60** And I will deliver them over to you duly numbered, and tell you which of them are to be destroyed—and those you shall destroy." And he gave those sheep over to them. **read ›**

139 **1 Enoch 101:1** Consider then, sons of men, the works of the Most High, and fear to do evil before him. **read ›**

140 **1 Enoch 108:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

141 **1 Enoch 108:11** And now I will summon the spirits of the good who belong to the generation of light, and I will transform those who were born in darkness, who in the flesh were not repaid with such honor as their faithfulness deserved. **read ›**

142 **1 Enoch 108:12** And I will bring forth in shining light those who have loved my holy name, and I will seat each on the throne of his honor. **read ›**

143 **1 Enoch 108:15** And the sinners shall cry aloud and see them shining brightly, and they indeed shall go where days and seasons are prescribed for them." **read ›**

144 **Matthew 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is no longer good for anything, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. **read ›**

145 **Matthew 5:14** "You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. **read ›**

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146 **Matthew 5:15** Neither do you light a lamp and put it under a measuring basket, but on a stand; and it shines to all who are in the house. **read ›**

147 **Matthew 5:16** Even so, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. **read ›**

148 **Matthew 5:17** “Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill. **read ›**

149 **Matthew 5:18** For Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. **read ›**

150 **Matthew 5:19** Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **read ›**

151 **Matthew 6:1** Be careful that you do not do your almsgiving before men, to be seen by them, or else you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. **read ›**

152 **Matthew 6:4** so that your alms may be in secret; then your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. **read ›**

153 **Matthew 11:13** For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. **read ›**

154 **Matthew 16:27** For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will give to everyone according to his deeds. **read ›**

155 **Matthew 19:18** He said to him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. **read ›**

156 **Matthew 22:40** The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” **read ›**

157 **Matthew 23:23** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You ought to have done these without neglecting the others. **read ›**

158 **Mark 9:49** For everyone shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. **read ›**

159 **Mark 9:50** Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” **read ›**

160 **Mark 10:19** You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and your mother.” **read ›**

161 **Luke 8:16** No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a container or puts it under a bed; but puts it on a stand, that those who enter in may see the light. **read ›**

162 **Luke 8:17** For nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **read ›**

163 **Luke 11:33** No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, that those who come in may see the light. **read ›**

164 **Luke 13:2** Jesus answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? **read ›**

165 **Luke 14:34** Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, with what shall it be seasoned? **read ›**

166 **Luke 16:17** But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tiny stroke of a pen in the law to fall. **read ›**

167 **Luke 18:20** You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” **read ›**

168 **Luke 24:44** He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms concerning me must be fulfilled.” **read ›**

169 **John 1:9** That was the true light, which gives light to every man coming into the world. **read ›**

170 **John 2:12** After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples, and they stayed there a few days. **read ›**

171 **John 3:19** This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, for their works were evil. **read ›**

172 **John 3:21** But he who does the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be manifested, that they have been done in God.” **read ›**

173 **John 3:24** for John was not yet thrown into prison. **read ›**

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174 **John 5:20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he himself does. He will show him greater works than these, so that you may marvel. **read ›**

175 **John 8:54** Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ **read ›**

176 **John 12:28** Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it and shall glorify it again.” **read ›**

177 **John 12:36** While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light.” Jesus said these things, and he departed and hid himself from them. **read ›**

178 **John 17:4** I glorified you on the earth. I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do. **read ›**

179 **Acts 3:18** But the things which God announced beforehand through the mouth of all his prophets, that the Christ should suffer, he fulfilled in this way. **read ›**

180 **Acts 9:1** But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **read ›**

181 **Acts 24:14** But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, so I serve the God of our fathers, believing all things which are according to the law, and which are written in the prophets; **read ›**

182 **Romans 3:21** But now apart from the law, a righteousness of God has been revealed, being attested by the law and the prophets; **read ›**

183 **Romans 10:4** For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. **read ›**

184 **Romans 13:9** For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other commandments there are, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **read ›**

185 **1 Corinthians 2:2** For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. **read ›**

186 **1 Corinthians 3:20** And again: The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile. **read ›**

187 **Ephesians 6:6** not serving only when watched, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the soul, **read ›**

188 **1 Timothy 5:25** Likewise, good works are evident, and even those that are otherwise cannot remain hidden. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *108 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Leviticus 11:4

2 Samuel 5:8

Hosea 12:4

Matthew 4:11 · 5:45 · 8:4 · 11:28 · 12:8 · 12:32 · 13:35 · 13:42 · 13:47 · 13:49 · 13:50 · 16:24 · 18:21 · 22:29

Mark 1:44 · 12:29 · 13:25 · 13:28

Luke 2:32 · 4:27 · 5:1 · 5:12 · 5:14 · 6:30 · 9:30 · 17:14 · 18:1 · 18:7 · 18:10 · 18:18 · 18:19 · 18:21 · 18:38 · 18:39 · 18:40 · 18:42 · 19:12 · 19:42 · 20:35 · 21:7 · 21:26 · 21:27 · 21:29 · 21:31 · 21:33 · 21:34 · 21:37 · 21:38

John 1:12 · 1:13 · 1:14 · 1:16 · 1:18 · 5:17 · 5:31 · 5:45 · 13:34

Acts 1:20 · 10:13 · 10:34 · 11:15 · 15:1 · 15:7 · 15:9 · 15:13 · 15:23

Romans 1:16 · 1:18 · 2:2 · 2:12 · 2:14 · 2:15 · 2:16 · 2:21 · 2:24 · 2:28 · 2:29 · 3:19 · 3:20 · 5:1 · 5:20 · 5:21 · 7:4 · 7:7 · 7:8 · 7:13 · 7:14

1 Corinthians 2:8 · 5:11 · 6:14 · 10:20 · 13:2 · 15:56

2 Corinthians 3:6 · 3:7

Galatians 2:19 · 3:13 · 3:22

Ephesians 4:26

1 Timothy 1:3 · 1:9 · 6:3

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2 Timothy 3:8

Hebrews 8:13

James 4:11

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did Jesus mean by fulfilling the law in Matthew 5:17–20?” on November 1, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “What did Jesus mean by fulfilling the law in Matthew 5:17–20?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-jesus-mean-by-fulfilling-the-law-in-matthew-5-17-20. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 7.”

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