

# **The Lord and the Law**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Jesus lived and died while the Law of Moses was in force (Gal. 4:4-5). Yet, He brought blessings that were not fully realized under the Law (John 1: 14-18, esp. vs. 17). Accordingly, the Book of Hebrews affirms that Christ offers a better sacrifice, institutes a better covenant, which is enacted upon better promises. As a result, believers have a better hope, a better possession and a better resurrection.

## **JESUS FULFILLED THE LAW**

Christ said, “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill...” (Matt. 5:17-20). In other words, Jesus did not come to demolish, or dismantle the law of Moses, but rather to bring it to a state of completion and finish its work (Rom. 8:1-4). He fulfilled the Messianic prophecies contained in the Law (Matt. 1:20-23; 2:14-15; 2:22-23; 4:12-16; 8:16-17; 12:15-21; 13:34-35; 21:1-5; 26:55-56; etc.). He faithfully kept the requirements of the Mosaic Code, living in harmony with its commandments and precepts (Matt. 8:1-4; Luke 17:11-14; cf. Lev. 14:1-4; and also Matt. 17:24-27; cf. Exod. 30:11-14; 38:24-27). He fulfilled the demands of the Mosaic Law regarding obedience, and was thus qualified to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin (Matt. 3:13-17; John 4:34; 8:28-29; Heb. 7:26-28; 1 Pet. 2:21-24).

## **JESUS EXPLAINED THE LAW**

Jesus explained the Law, setting aside misconceptions and offering clarification regarding its demands (Matt. 12:1-14).

## **JESUS REPLACED THE LAW**

By living faithfully according to the Law, Jesus thus fulfilled its demands, and replaced the Old Covenant with one that is New and Better (Luke 16:16-17; Col. 2:13-17; Eph. 2:14-18; Heb. 10:1-14). The gospel of Christ supersedes and supplants the Law of Moses (Matt. 4:17, 23; 9:35; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 4:42–43; 8:1; 16:16). Disciples of Christ preach that same message (Matt. 10:5–7; 24:9–14; Acts 8:12; 20:25–32; 28:30–31).

## CONCLUSION

Let us be thankful for the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the Law, explained the Law, and replaced the Law. Following His example, let us be obedient to the divine standard under which we live, and by which we will be judged (John 12:44-50).