

# The Law Prophets and Psalms: Luke 24:44-47

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A more complete picture of Christ's teaching on when the law is fulfilled develops after his resurrection. He meets again with His disciples and the twelve apostles are present, minus Judas, (Luke 24:33). Later, he states the following:

"Then He said to them, 'these are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning me'" (v. 44).

Jesus here brings to mind the previous conversations he had with the apostles concerning the particular subject of "all things which must be fulfilled which were written in the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms." This would include Matthew 5:17, 18, Luke 16:17; 18:31; and 21:22.

What is the point here? Namely, that Jesus is clarifying to ensure a complete and full understanding of what He meant during His personal ministry prior to His death in all the references to the fulfillment of all things. Therefore, this text offers commentary and explanation of the previous ones.

It is that which no one should misunderstand or misapply its meaning and usefulness in interpreting the other passages. Further, no passage in the epistles should be made to contradict this one which Jesus says explains what He meant about the fulfilling of the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms concerning him.

## **Christ Makes No Mention or Distinction of Civil Versus The Prophets**

Observe that Jesus does not say the law only, the civil institutions or the law exclusive of the prophets. Rather, He used all the terms by which they commonly referred to the Old Covenant, the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. Therefore, no one may rightfully argue that Jesus spoke during His ministry or in this text of the law versus the prophets and vice versa when speaking of fulfillment.

"And he opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures, "This is the third point the reader was asked to keep in mind. Remember, during Jesus' personal ministry, the disciples did not understand what He meant. See Luke 18:31-34 again.

At this time, after his resurrection, the Lord makes certain that no misunderstanding occurs because He "opens" their understanding that they might "comprehend" the true meaning of His previous utterances. Therefore, let us listen carefully to what Jesus meant.

"Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

These words are very important. They mentioned three very key events critical to our understanding. They are (a) the suffering and death of Christ, (b) His subsequent resurrection on the third day, and (c), the preaching of the gospel to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.

### **What Did Christ Say Would Fulfill The Law, the Prophets and the Psalms?**

Can one truthfully answer the “cross” and leave it at that? Not if the text is read and comprehended as Jesus states it. The Lord mentions not one, but three separate and distinct events; His death on the cross, His resurrection on the third day, and the fulfillment of the great commission.

Compare Matt. 28:19, “Go into all the world and teach “all nations.” They began in Jerusalem (Acts 1 & 2), but went into all the world to proclaim salvation to all the nations (Rom. 1:5; 10:18; 16:26; 1 Thess. 1:8; Tit. 2:11; Col. 1:6, 23 and Jude 3).

It is transparently clear that the great commission which fulfills the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms was not fulfilled at the cross. Christ emphatically commanded the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they were clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit before they began fulfilling the great commission.