# **SOTM Pt 19 - The Law and the Believer Pt 2**

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Sermon on the Mount / Tanakh; Law in the OT; Fulfillment of Prophecy / Matthew 5:17–20

Israel at war

There are significant Biblical prophecies that point to the second coming, the second advent of Christ. Remember last week: [Mt 5:18](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.18) and the “second” until or till, that Jesus refers to: until all the law is fulfilled. There are prophecies that point to, not the first coming of Christ but the second coming of Christ that have yet to be fulfilled.

One of the significant prophecies that Had to be fulfilled: Israel would be brought back to its land “As it’s own Nation”

[Amos 9:14–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Am9.14-15) “14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. 15 **I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them,” Says the Lord your God.”**

[Jeremiah 3:18](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Je3.18) “18 “In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers.”

[Jeremiah 16:14–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Je16.14-15) “14 “Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ 15 but, ‘**The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.”**

[Ezekiel 37:21–22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze37.21-22) “21 “Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: **“Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel**; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.”

The first part of this prophecy has been fulfilled - The storyline that points to the Second Coming of Christ, the clock that starts the end times timeline begins with Israel becoming a nation again. **This prophecy was fulfilled in 1948 and Israel became a nation again.** The second portion of this Prophecy is a future fulfillment in the Second Coming of Christ

What happens in the earth between Israel becoming a nation and the second coming of Christ? And what does this have to do with the current conflict in Israel? A lot, more than we have time to discuss here today. But I want us to just a little bit of it:

[Matthew 24:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24.3) “3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, **“Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”**”

Jesus responds with the prophetic timeline of what is to come throughout [Matthew 24](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24). In [Matthew 24:6–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24.6-8) “6 **And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet**. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 **All these are the beginning of sorrows.**”

This in [Matthew 24:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24.8) in the Greek for the word “sorrows” here is ὠδίν (ōdin)[oh-deen] and it’s literal definition is pangs or throes of childbirth, great suffering, agony, a figurative extension of ever increasing pain, implying later relief (as in the birth)

The ESV, NASB, NET and NIV translate this “sorrow” as “birth pangs, or birth pains”

So Jesus said the beginning of the end times process towards His return is “Wars and Rumors of Wars”. Since 1948 when Israel became a nation again there have been 21 wars or military conflicts in Israel.

50 years ago in 1973 the Yom Kippur war happened and many thought it was the war of Gog of Magog described in [Ezekiel 38](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze38). Some today are saying this conflict in Israel could be the [Ezekiel 38](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze38) war.

It is not. I do reserve the right to be wrong in my study of the end times but most believe the war in [Ezekiel 38-39](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze38-39) is the first war with the antichrist in [Revelation 16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Re16) (Not the second described at the end of the millennial reign of Christ in [Revelation 20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Re20))

I believe this war and the theatre of war that has been in Israel since 1948 (21 military conflicts and wars) is this “First time frame” Jesus describes in [Matthew 24](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24): The Birth Pains.

In [Luke 21:28](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Lk21.28) where Luke documents this same “Olivet Discourse” as [Matthew 24](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24) he says: “28 **Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”**”

The second time frame Jesus describes is the [Daniel 9](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Da9) seventy weeks prophecy and the revealing of the Antichrist (Jesus and Daniel refer to him as “the abomination of desolation” [Mt 24:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24.15), [Dan 9:27](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Da9.27), [Dan 11:31](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Da11.31).

The third time frame Jesus reveals is His return [Mt 24:29-31](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24.29-31),

[2 Peter 3:3–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Pe3.3-4) “3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, **“Where is the promise of His coming?** For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation… [2 Peter 3:9](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Pe3.9) “9 **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise**, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

[2 Peter 3:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Pe3.14) “14 Therefore, beloved, **looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless**;”

Without Spot and Blameless brings us back around to our Sermon on the mount passage and our question: Since Christ has fulfilled the law how does the believer relate to the law?:

[Romans 8:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro8.2) “2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

If we have been set free from the Law of sin and death which is what the Law reveals for us, that in it is only death because we can never attain fulfilling it what then does the believe have in relation to it:

[Romans 3:21–22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro3.21-22) “21 But now the righteousness of God **apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe**. For there is no difference;… vs 23 “For **ALL** have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God**”**

[2 Corinthians 5:21](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Co5.21) “21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

So then in Christ we have been freed from the penalty of the law, and from the binding of adherence to the law for righteousness for our righteousness is found in Christ.

[Romans 8:1–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro8.1-4) “1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**”

Christ took the Curse of the Law - The Consequences, The Penalty with Him to the Cross [Galatians 3:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ga3.10) “10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”**” [Galatians 3:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ga3.13) “13 **Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law**, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),”

So then if He bore the Curse for us are we then freed from the responsibility to continue in them? NO. For remember the moral law we discussed last week applies to all people across all space, everywhere and all time for it reveals the expectation of morality God has.

His morality has not changed! His Holiness has not abated

So then what happened to the Law?

It became a law of the heart not a law of external requirements

[Jeremiah 31:33](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Je31.33) “33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” [Hebrews 10:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Heb10.16) “16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,””

[Ezekiel 36:26–27](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze36.26-27) “26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

The following of the moral law now is a matter of the heart:

[John 14:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn14.15) “15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” [John 14:21](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn14.21) “21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.””

[Matthew 5:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.19) “19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Christ still expects us to live a life of the moral law of God but they are not the requirement for entrance into the kingdom , or staying in the kingdom.

Only those who are born again [John 3:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn3.3) “3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot **see the kingdom of God**.”” [John 3:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn3.5) “5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot **enter the kingdom of God**.”

So in [Matthew 5:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.19) Jesus is talking to believers keeping the law, which is now written on their hearts and minds and the Spirit dwells in them and empowers them to keep the law ([Jeremiah 31:33](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Je31.33) & [Ezekiel 36:26-27](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze36.26-27))

So then the moral law is not where we find our righteousness, for our righteousness is in Christ, but is by no means abandoned. Thou shall not covet still means we should not covet. Thou shall not commit adultery still means we are not to commit adultery, etc.

Believers, who are Kingdom citizens live the Law through obedience to the Spirit and espouse a new “Christian Ethic” because of the heart:

1. Right action - What we do must be in obedience to Christ Commands [John 14:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.15) ““If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

2. Right Motivate - Why we do it - Must flow from the greatest commandment - **“Love God - Love People”** any other motivation is the wrong motivation [Matthew 22:37-40](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt22.37-40) “Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.””

a. ANY other motivation for right action creates legalism -

3. Right Goal - [Matthew 5:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.16) “16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” [Isaiah 43:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is43.7) “7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”” The Goal is that God is Glorified