

Jesus Did NOT Abolish the Commandments but Magnified and Empowered Them



Did Jesus of Nazareth nullify the commandments given by God through Moses, or did He reaffirm, magnify, and empower believers to walk in them by His Spirit?



Jesus Did Not Abolish the Law

Matthew 5:17-19 — "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill... Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

This is not the rhetoric of repeal but of reinforcement. He fulfills it by embodying it perfectly, not by removing it.

Isaiah 42:21 — "The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will magnify the law and make it honorable."

Yeshua did precisely this. He deepened commandments, not discarded them:

- "You have heard... but I say to you" (Matthew 5:21-48) — magnifying the moral depth.
 - He made inward purity as binding as external obedience.
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The Commandments Are the Same, Now Written on Our Hearts

Jeremiah 31:33 / Hebrews 8:10 — "I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts."

Ezekiel 36:27 — "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes."

The Spirit doesn't replace the Law—He empowers us to walk in it.

Romans 7:12 — "So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good."

Psalms 89:34 — "I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered."

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 — "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart."

This is the same law Jesus quoted in **Matthew 22:37**. He did not create a new ethic—He renewed the original.



God's Covenant Is Unchanging

Deuteronomy 7:9 — "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations."

Deuteronomy 5:29 — "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and their children [forever](#)!"

Deuteronomy 6:25 — "Then it will be [righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments.](#)"

Exodus 24:3-4 — "All the words which the Lord has said we will do... Moses wrote all the words of the Lord."

The Torah came directly from God's mouth; Moses was the faithful scribe.

John 5:46-47 — "If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

There is no contradiction. Jesus affirmed what Moses wrote. If you believe Jesus, you would believe Moses and vice versa. [God is one & the same.](#)

The Promise of Rest Was Always There

Isaiah 28:12 — "This is [the rest](#) with which You may cause the weary to rest... but they would not hear."

Matthew 11:28-30 — "Come to Me... and you will find [rest for your souls](#). For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

The Hebrew word for "rest" in Isaiah 28:12 is "**mənūhâ**" (**מְנוּחָה**), meaning *repose, a settled resting place, or quietness*. This points to a divine rest characterized by peace and covenantal faithfulness—not simply physical stillness but a spiritual state of right relationship with God.

In the Greek of Matthew 11:28, "rest" is "**anapausis**" (**ἀνάπαυσις**), which refers to *refreshment, cessation from labor, or inner tranquility*. Yeshua's call to rest echoes Isaiah's offer—not discarding Sabbath, but offering its deeper fulfillment in Him.

Thus, when Jesus says "My yoke is easy," He is not replacing Torah with lawlessness, but offering Spirit-empowered obedience that results in rest for the soul—a restoration of the very intent behind God's covenant rest.

This is a direct appeal to the same "rest" Isaiah spoke of: *obedient covenantal living in faith*, now made possible through Messiah.

Jesus Restored, Not Replaced, the Covenant Path

Acts 3:19-26 — "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out... **Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me...' To you first, God... sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your iniquities.**"

Here, Peter directly quotes **Deuteronomy 18:15-18**, where Moses prophesied:

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear... I will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."

Jesus is that Prophet, **not launching a new religion**, but speaking the very words of God as foretold by Moses. **His mission was not to discard the covenant, but to call people back to its heart: obedience from the heart, enabled by the Spirit.**

Acts 7:52-53 — Stephen, standing trial before the Sanhedrin, declared: "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Stephen's bold testimony confirms the consistent pattern: the Righteous One (Jesus) was prophesied, resisted, and rejected by those entrusted with the Law. But he also affirms that **the Law was delivered by God and remained binding**, and that Israel's failure was in *not keeping it*, not that it had been annulled.

- Jesus didn't come to lower the standard, but to *turn us from sin* (which 1 John 3:4 defines as lawlessness).
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Christ came to magnify, inscribe and help us walk out the requirements of the Law in the Spirit:

God's standard has not changed. His covenant is everlasting. Jesus didn't start a new religion; He was the embodiment of the Law, the fulfillment of prophecy, and the restorer of truth. The Torah is not abolished—it is magnified, inscribed on hearts, and walked out in the Spirit.

The Law was, is, and forever shall be holy.

Let heaven and earth witness:

"My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips." (Psalm 89:34)