

The New Testament does not stand apart from the Old Testament; it grows out of it. Jesus and the apostles treated the Scriptures of Israel as the inspired foundation for the gospel. After His resurrection, Jesus explained that everything written about Him in the Law of

Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms had to be fulfilled. This means the New Testament is not a replacement story but the unveiling of the story already planted in the Old Testament.

From the beginning, God's purpose was that humanity would bear His image. Sin damaged that calling, but it did not cancel it. The rest of Scripture shows God restoring His image in His people through covenant, commandment, sacrifice, priesthood, kingship, prophecy, and finally through Jesus Christ, who is the perfect image of the invisible God.

Old Testament foundation: God created humanity to reflect His character and rule under His authority. Israel was called to be a holy nation, displaying God's wisdom, justice, mercy, and holiness among the nations.

New Testament fulfillment: Christ is the true Son, true Israel, true image, and true human. Those joined to Him are renewed in knowledge, righteousness, holiness, and glory.

Application: Bible study should train us to read both Testaments as one testimony. We do not read the Old Testament merely for background, nor the New Testament as if it were disconnected from Israel's Scriptures. We read both as one witness to God's purpose: a people conformed to His likeness through Christ.

Discussion questions:

1. Why is it important that Jesus interpreted His mission through the Law, Prophets, and Psalms?
2. How does the image of God theme help unify the Bible?
3. What changes when we read the Old Testament as preparing for Christ rather than as a closed religious system?

Lesson 2: Fulfillment Does Not Mean Abolition

Core Scriptures: Matthew 5:17–20; Romans 3:31; Romans 8:1–4; Galatians 3:21–29; Hebrews 8:6–13.

Jesus said He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them. Fulfillment means bringing something to its intended goal. Jesus fulfills the Law by obeying it perfectly, revealing its deepest meaning, bearing its curse for the disobedient, and writing its righteous requirement into the lives of those who walk according to the Spirit.

The New Testament teaches that believers are not justified by law-keeping. Righteousness before God comes through faith in Christ. Yet faith does not overthrow God's law; it establishes it. The Spirit does what human weakness could not do: He produces in believers the life toward which the commandment pointed.

Old Testament foundation: The Torah revealed God's holy character and instructed Israel in covenant life. The prophets promised a new covenant in which God would put His law within His people and write it on their hearts.

New Testament fulfillment: In Christ, the law moves from external stone to internal transformation. The Spirit enables obedience from love, not merely outward conformity.

Application: Christians should not despise God's commandments. They should reject legalism, self-righteousness, and condemnation, while embracing the moral beauty of God's will as fulfilled in love, holiness, justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

Discussion questions:

1. What is the difference between abolishing the law and fulfilling it?
2. How does Romans 8:1–4 explain the Spirit's role in fulfilling the righteous requirement of the law?
3. How can believers honor God's commandments without falling into legalism?

Lesson 3: Physical Events as Spiritual Patterns

Core Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 10:1–11; Romans 5:12–21; John 3:14–15; John 6:31–58; Hebrews 10:1.

The New Testament repeatedly treats Old Testament events as real history with spiritual significance. Israel's exodus, wilderness journey, manna, sacrifices, priesthood, temple, and promised land all serve as patterns pointing beyond themselves. The physical events were not meaningless symbols; they were God-ordained realities that prepared His people to recognize greater spiritual fulfillment in Christ.

Paul says Israel's experiences happened as examples and were written for our instruction. Adam points to Christ as representative head; the Passover lamb points to Christ's saving blood; the bronze serpent points to the Son of Man lifted up; manna points to Christ as the bread from heaven; the temple points to God dwelling among and within His people.

Old Testament foundation: God acted in history through physical deliverance, covenant signs, tabernacle worship, sacrifices, feasts, and holy places.

New Testament fulfillment: Christ becomes the substance of these shadows. Believers receive not only outward signs but inward realities: redemption, cleansing, life, access to God, and the indwelling Spirit.

Application: We should read Old Testament events carefully, respecting their original context while also asking how the New Testament reveals their completion in Christ and His people.

Discussion questions:

1. How does typology differ from treating Old Testament stories as mere illustrations?
2. Which Old Testament event most clearly helps you understand Christ?
3. How do physical patterns help reveal spiritual fulfillment?

Lesson 4: Covenant—From Promise to Inheritance

Core Scriptures: Genesis 12:1–3; Genesis 15:1–6; Jeremiah 31:31–34; Luke 22:19–20; Galatians 3:6–29; Hebrews 8:6–13.

God's covenants are the backbone of Scripture. The promises to Abraham, the covenant at Sinai, the promise to David, and the new covenant announced by the prophets all move toward Christ. The New Testament proclaims that Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham, the faithful Israelite, the Son of David, and the mediator of the new covenant.

The new covenant does not mean God abandoned His earlier purpose. It means He accomplished what the earlier covenants anticipated. God promised blessing to all nations through Abraham's seed, and that seed is fulfilled in Christ. God promised a people who would know Him from the heart, and that promise is fulfilled by the Spirit poured out through Christ.

Old Testament foundation: Covenant established relationship, identity, obligation, blessing, and mission. Israel was called to be God's treasured possession and a light to the nations.

New Testament fulfillment: Through Christ, the covenant blessing extends to Jews and Gentiles who believe. The inheritance is received by faith, and the covenant law is internalized by the Spirit.

Application: Believers are covenant people. We are saved by grace, joined to Christ, and called to faithful obedience so the world may see the character of God.

Discussion questions:

1. How does the Abrahamic promise shape the gospel?
2. What does it mean for God's law to be written on the heart?
3. How does covenant identity shape Christian obedience?

Lesson 5: Sacrifice—From Blood on the Altar to the Blood of Christ

Core Scriptures: Exodus 12:1–14; Leviticus 16; Isaiah 53; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 9:11–14; Hebrews 10:1–18.

The sacrificial system taught Israel that sin brings death, atonement requires life, and access to God requires cleansing. Animal sacrifices could not finally remove sin, but they trained God’s people to understand substitution, holiness, mercy, and mediation. They were shadows pointing to the perfect offering of Christ.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. His blood does what the blood of bulls and goats could not do: cleanse the conscience, secure eternal redemption, and open the way into God’s presence. The physical altar gives way to the once-for-all sacrifice of the Son of God.

Old Testament foundation: Passover, the Day of Atonement, and daily sacrifices revealed that deliverance and fellowship with God depended on blood, substitution, and priestly mediation.

New Testament fulfillment: Christ fulfills sacrifice by offering Himself. Believers are then called to become living sacrifices, offering worship, obedience, mercy, and holy lives to God.

Application: Grace is never cheap. The law’s sacrifices reveal the seriousness of sin, and the cross reveals the depth of God’s love. The forgiven life becomes a consecrated life.

Discussion questions:

1. How does Passover prepare us to understand Jesus’ death?
2. Why could animal sacrifices not complete what Christ completed?
3. What does it mean to offer yourself as a living sacrifice?

Lesson 6: Priesthood and Temple—From Holy Place to Holy People

Core Scriptures: Exodus 25:8; Psalm 110:4; John 1:14; John 2:19–22; 1 Corinthians 3:16–17; 1 Peter 2:4–10; Hebrews 4:14–16; Hebrews 7:11–28.

The tabernacle and temple were centers of God’s presence among His people. The priesthood guarded holiness, offered sacrifices, blessed the people, and mediated access

to God. Yet these institutions pointed beyond themselves. God's final aim was not merely to dwell in a building, but to dwell with and within a holy people.

Jesus fulfills temple and priesthood. He is the true meeting place between God and humanity, the great High Priest, and the once-for-all sacrifice. Through Him, believers become a spiritual house and a royal priesthood. The physical temple's purpose is fulfilled in Christ and extended to His body, the church.

Old Testament foundation: God dwelt among Israel in the tabernacle and temple, and priests mediated worship according to God's commandments.

New Testament fulfillment: The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. Through Christ, the Spirit now dwells in believers, making them God's temple.

Application: Holiness still matters because God still dwells among His people. Christian obedience is temple obedience: keeping the dwelling place of God set apart for His glory.

Discussion questions:

1. How does Jesus fulfill both temple and priesthood?
2. What does it mean that believers are God's temple?
3. How should God's indwelling presence affect daily choices?

Lesson 7: The Commandments Fulfilled in Love

Core Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:34–40; John 14:15–24; Romans 13:8–10; Galatians 5:13–26; 1 John 2:3–6; 1 John 5:1–5.

Jesus summarized the Law and the Prophets in two great commandments: love God with all the heart, soul, and mind, and love neighbor as oneself. This does not reduce obedience to sentiment. Biblical love is covenant faithfulness expressed through action. To love God is to honor His words; to love neighbor is to refuse the sins that destroy them and to practice the righteousness that blesses them.

The New Testament repeatedly connects love and commandments. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." John teaches that knowing God is shown by keeping His commandments. Paul says love fulfills the law because love does no harm to a neighbor. The Spirit does not free believers from holiness; He frees them from slavery to sin so they can walk in holy love.

Old Testament foundation: Love was already central to Torah. Israel was commanded to love God wholly and love neighbor faithfully.

New Testament fulfillment: Christ reveals perfect love and pours out the Spirit so that God's love may be formed in believers as obedience from the heart.

Application: God's commandments still apply as the revealed shape of holy love. They are fulfilled not by fleshly striving, but by faith working through love and by walking in the Spirit.

Discussion questions:

1. Why is love the fulfillment rather than the cancellation of God's commandments?
2. How does Jesus connect love for Him with obedience?
3. What commandment especially needs to become love in action in your life?

Lesson 8: From Stone Tablets to Living Hearts

Core Scriptures: Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 30:6; Ezekiel 36:25–27; Jeremiah 31:31–34; 2 Corinthians 3:3–18; Hebrews 10:15–17.

The Old Testament prophets saw that Israel needed more than commands written on stone. The people needed cleansed hearts, God's Spirit, and inward transformation. Moses spoke of a circumcised heart. Jeremiah promised the law written within. Ezekiel promised a new heart and a new spirit, with God causing His people to walk in His statutes.

The New Testament declares that this promise is fulfilled through Christ and the Spirit. Believers become letters of Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God. The goal is transformation from glory to glory into the image of the Lord.

Old Testament foundation: The commandments revealed God's will, but the prophets exposed the need for inward renewal.

New Testament fulfillment: The Spirit writes God's law on the heart, turning external command into internal desire, power, and likeness.

Application: When we fail, we should not conclude that God's commandments are impossible or irrelevant. We should turn again to Christ, receive grace, and ask the Spirit to make obedience inward, joyful, and real.

Discussion questions:

1. What is the difference between external compliance and inward obedience?
2. How does the Spirit fulfill what the law exposed but could not produce in sinful flesh?
3. Where do you need God to write His commandment more deeply on your heart?

Lesson 9: Conformed to the Image of Christ

Core Scriptures: Genesis 1:26–28; Romans 8:28–30; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4–6; Ephesians 4:20–24; Colossians 1:15; Colossians 3:9–10; 1 John 3:1–3.

The common purpose of both Testaments is the restoration of God's image in humanity. Adam failed to reflect God faithfully. Israel was called to display God's holiness to the nations but repeatedly fell short. Christ appears as the perfect image of God, the obedient Son, the faithful servant, and the glorious human being God intended.

Salvation includes forgiveness, but it does not stop there. God predestines His people to be conformed to the image of His Son. This conformity begins now through repentance, faith, obedience, suffering, and the transforming work of the Spirit, but it reaches its fullness at the resurrection. Scripture teaches that believers now bear the image of the man of dust, but they shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. When Christ appears, the children of God shall be like Him, because they shall see Him as He is. Thus the image of God is not merely a present moral calling; it is also a future bodily and spiritual glorification in which the redeemed are made like the risen Christ.

Christ's resurrection is the pattern and guarantee of this destiny. He rose as the firstborn among many brothers, the firstfruits of those who sleep, and the glorified Son who brings many sons to glory. Believers do not become independent gods, rivals to the Father, or separate objects of worship. Rather, by grace, adoption, resurrection, and glorification, they are brought into the family of God and made to share in the divine likeness, life, holiness, inheritance, and glory revealed in the Son.

Old Testament foundation: Humanity was created for God's image, and Israel was called to embody God's holy character before the nations.

New Testament fulfillment: Christ restores the image by uniting believers to Himself and transforming them through the Spirit.

Application: Christian growth is not vague self-improvement. It is becoming like Christ: holy, truthful, merciful, obedient, humble, loving, and filled with God's glory.

Discussion questions:

1. How does Christ reveal what humanity was meant to be?
2. Why must salvation include transformation, not only forgiveness?
3. What aspect of Christ's likeness is God forming in you now?

Lesson 10: Glory—The Final Fulfillment of God’s Purpose

Core Scriptures: Numbers 14:21; Psalm 72:17–19; Isaiah 60:1–3; Habakkuk 2:14; John 17:20–26; Romans 8:18–30; Revelation 21:1–7; Revelation 22:1–5.

God’s purpose is that the earth will be filled with His glory. The Old Testament promises a world renewed under God’s reign, where nations walk in His light and His people shine with His presence. The New Testament shows that this glory begins in Christ, is shared with His people by the Spirit, and will be completed in the new creation.

Jesus prayed that His followers would behold His glory and share in the love between the Father and the Son. Paul teaches that present suffering cannot compare with the glory to be revealed. John sees the final city where God dwells with His people, His servants see His face, and they reign forever.

Old Testament foundation: God promised that His glory would fill the earth, His kingdom would embrace the nations, and His people would reflect His light.

New Testament fulfillment: Christ brings the glory of God into human flesh, shares that glory with His people, and will complete it in resurrection and new creation.

Resurrection and family fulfillment: The final fulfillment of being made in God’s image occurs when believers are raised in the likeness of Christ’s resurrection body. Paul teaches that the Lord Jesus “will transform our lowly body” to be conformed to His glorious body, and John says that what believers shall be has not yet fully appeared, but when Christ appears they shall be like Him. This means the image of God reaches its completed form when God’s children are glorified—spiritually purified, bodily raised, and made fit to inherit the kingdom.

Called children, heirs, and “gods” by participation: Scripture calls believers children of God, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. Jesus also appealed to Psalm 82 when He said, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, you are gods’?” This language should be understood with reverence and care. The Father and the Son are God by eternal nature, uncreated glory, and divine identity. The redeemed are not God in that same eternal, self-existent sense. Yet by adoption, union with Christ, resurrection, and the gift of eternal life, they are brought into God’s family and made partakers of His likeness and glory. They may be called “gods” only in the sense that they are glorified children who bear the family likeness of God, receive authority under Him, and share by grace what belongs to Christ by nature.

The family purpose of God: The Father's purpose is to have many glorified children conformed to the Son. Christ remains the firstborn, the Head, and the Lord, while believers become His brethren, His body, and His inheritance. The commandments fulfilled in them are not merely rules kept from outside; they become the family character of God reproduced in His children. In the resurrection, that character will be completed in incorruptible life, holy love, and radiant glory.

Application: Obedience, holiness, and love are not merely duties for the present age. They are preparation for glory. God is making His people fit for the world where His will is done perfectly.

Discussion questions:

1. How does the hope of glory strengthen obedience now?
2. What does Revelation's new creation show about God's original purpose?
3. How can believers reflect future glory in present daily life?

Conclusion: The Common Purpose of Both Testaments

The Old and New Testaments share one divine purpose: God is making a people in His image, filled with His Spirit, walking in His commandments, and reflecting His glory. The Old Testament gives the promises, patterns, covenants, commands, sacrifices, and prophetic hope. The New Testament reveals their fulfillment in Jesus Christ and applies that fulfillment to believers through the Holy Spirit.

God's law still applies because God's character has not changed. What changes in the new covenant is not God's holiness, but the location and power of obedience. The commandment moves from stone to heart, from external condemnation to Spirit-empowered transformation, from shadow to substance, from physical sign to spiritual reality.

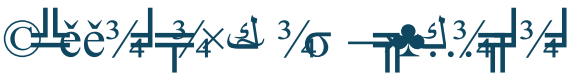
Therefore, fulfillment is not permission to ignore God's will. Fulfillment is God accomplishing His will in Christ and then fulfilling it in us. The righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in those who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. The commandments become the shape of love, the path of holiness, and the evidence that God is restoring His image in His children.

This restoration will be completed at the resurrection. Then the redeemed will no longer bear the weakness, corruption, and mortality of the first Adam, but the incorruptible

likeness of the risen Christ. They will be fully revealed as the family of God—children, heirs, and glorified brethren of the Son. In that sense, the biblical promise reaches beyond moral improvement into participation in God’s own family life and glory: the Father and Son are God by eternal nature, while the redeemed are made godlike by grace, adoption, resurrection, and union with Christ.

Summary Chart: Old Testament Pattern and New Testament Fulfillment

Old Testament Pattern	New Testament Fulfillment	Spiritual Meaning for Believers
Adam and creation in God’s image	Christ, the perfect image of God	Believers are renewed into Christ’s likeness.
Passover lamb and exodus deliverance	Christ, the Lamb of God	Believers are redeemed from sin and death.
Manna in the wilderness	Christ, the bread from heaven	Believers live by receiving life from Christ.
Bronze serpent lifted up	The Son of Man lifted up	Believers look to Christ in faith and receive life.
Tabernacle and temple	Christ and His Spirit-filled people	Believers become the dwelling place of God.
Priesthood and sacrifices	Christ, High Priest and final sacrifice	Believers have access to God and offer holy lives.
Law written on stone	Law written on hearts by the Spirit	Believers obey from love and inward renewal.
Israel called to holiness	Church called as a holy priesthood	Believers witness to God’s character before the world.



- Matthew 5:17 — Christ came not to abolish but to fulfill.
- Luke 24:44 — Everything written in the Law, Prophets, and Psalms must be fulfilled.
- Romans 8:4 — The righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in those who walk by the Spirit.

- Jeremiah 31:33 — God writes His law on the heart.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 — Believers are transformed from glory to glory.
- Romans 8:29 — God conforms His people to the image of His Son.
- 1 John 5:3 — God’s commandments are not burdensome.
- 1 Corinthians 15:49 — Believers shall bear the image of the heavenly Man.
- Philippians 3:21 — Christ will transform the lowly body to be like His glorious body.
- 1 John 3:2 — When Christ appears, believers shall be like Him.
- Romans 8:17 — God’s children are heirs with Christ and will be glorified with Him.
- John 10:34–36 — Jesus appeals to the Scripture, “I said, you are gods,” showing the biblical category of God’s appointed family and representatives.



Father, open our eyes to behold the unity of Your Word. Teach us to see Christ in the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Write Your commandments on our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Deliver us from legalism and lawlessness, and form in us the holy love revealed in Jesus. Conform us to the image of Your Son, fill us with Your likeness, and prepare us for the glory of Your kingdom. Amen.