

7. A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching

“Our starting point for uncovering Matthew’s understanding of the passage must be the context in which he has placed it.”

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“It serves as a preface to the antitheses (vv. 21-48), which present Christ as the God-authorized interpreter of the law.”

6. Matthew 5:17-20

Form/Structure/Setting Davies

- “Christ’ corrections of the mistaken understandings involve the presentation of the true meaning of the Torah, not its cancellation as might at first seem to be the case.”

5. The Broadman Bible Commentary of the Bible

- In contrast to the Pharisees, Christ brought out the true and deeper meaning of the Law

4. The Greatest Texts of the Bible by James Hastings

- “It is not the Law or the Prophets that Christ proposes to abolish, but the traditional misinterpretations of these authorities.”
(Quote of A. Plummer)

4. The Greatest Texts of the Bible by James Hastings

- “The πληρῶσαι of the law and the prophets is their fulfillment by the re-establishment of their *absolute* meaning . . .”
- (Quote of H. A.W. Meyer)

3. The Anchor Bible by F. A. Albright and C. S. Mann

- Much hangs on the meaning of the verb (to fulfil). The verb can and frequently does convey the meaning of ‘to clarify the true meaning of something’.

3. The Anchor Bible by F. A. Albright and C. S. Mann

- Certainly, it can be argued that what Christ is doing in this legal material of Matt 5-7 is trying to restore the original meaning of the Law where this seemed to be obscured by the accretions of commentary.

2. Word Biblical Commentary Vol. 33A

“‘Do not think that I came’ presupposes the existence of the opinion that is denied.”

2. Word Biblical Commentary Vol. 33A

“Here it is fair to assume that Christ’s sovereign interpretation of the law was so out of step with contemporary interpretation that it seemed to many that he was going against the law.”

2. Word Biblical Commentary Vol. 33A

“It is best to understand πληρῶσαι here as ‘fulfil’ in the sense of ‘bring to its intended meaning’.

2. Word Biblical Commentary Vol. 33A

This view is consonant with the expectation that the Messiah would not only preserve the Torah but also bring about its meaning in a definitive manner (see Davies, Settings, 161-72).”

2. Word Biblical Commentary Vol. 33A

“In other words, the law, as interpreted by Christ, will remain valid until the close of this age.”

1. The International Critical Commentary

The meaning of the words is clear. Christ did not come to overthrow the authority of the Mosaic Law, which was to be eternally binding upon the hearts and consciences of men.

1. The International Critical Commentary

So long as the world lasted its authority was
to be permanent.

1. The International Critical Commentary

Commentators have exhausted their ingenuity in attempts to explain away this passage, but it's meaning is too clear to be misunderstood.”