



## **THE KEY TO THE END - [WEEK 5]**

### *Everything Jesus Fulfilled*

O, God, teach us today that Christ has all fullness and all abundance of the Spirit, that all fullness we lack in ourselves is in Him, for His people, not for Himself alone, He having perfect knowledge, grace, righteousness, to make us see, to make us righteous, to give us fullness. It is our joy and our obligation, out of a sense of emptiness, to go to Christ, to possess and enjoy His fullness as our own, as if we had it in ourselves, because it is ours in Him. Help us delight more in what we receive from Christ, in the fullness that we find in Him, the fountain of all His glory. Settle us, O God, assure us with certainty that all this is ours, for only this will fill our hearts with joy and peace. In Christ's Name We Pray. Amen.

## **2 Corinthians 1:20**

**20** For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

- **Super Bowl 51 | 2007**

The term “amen” is rooted in a Semitic word that means “truth.” When we say “amen” we are emphasizing our agreement with the truth spoken. But it goes even further, “amen” is a way of saying that we not only agree with the truth of a prayer or a sermon or a praise, but that we ourselves find that truth binding and live according to it, because it is God’s revealed truth.

If anyone has been promised anything by God, the fulfillment to that promise is found in Christ. Any and every promise, not just some, find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ. The above Scripture tells us that everything God promised has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, His one and only Son.

The Apostle Paul makes this same point that what was promised to the Jewish believers was fulfilled in Jesus.

## **Acts 13:32-33**

**32** And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, **33** this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,  
“‘You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you.’”

**Now, why is Jesus being the fulfillment of everything a key to understanding Scripture’s teachings on end times?**

It’s simply this. You stop looking for the fulfillment of end times prophecies apart from Jesus. You stop looking for the fulfillment of the end times in other things, like physical kingdoms and promises of land and so forth. Jesus is the central figure in every Bible promise, especially those of the end times. That’s why understanding this is key — it keeps our focus on Christ who said Himself that all the Scriptures testify about Him.

- Israel is mentioned over 2,000 times in the OT. It’s not mentioned even a fragment of that in the NT, because everything that was promised to Israel has been fulfilled in Christ.

This morning we're going to look at some ways the Bible shows us that Christ has indeed fulfilled everything.

### **I. Jesus is the True Temple**

I will cover this first one in more detail and then give you several more ways Christ has fulfilled every one of God's promises.

Jesus is the true temple, which means that any promise about the temple has been fulfilled in Christ.

If we go back to the Old Testament to this promise given to King David:

## **1 Chronicles 17:11-12**

**11** When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. **12** He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever.

**This prophecy was given to King David and it promises that one of his offspring will build the temple. Now, David's son Solomon did build a temple for the Lord, but notice in this prophecy that it also promises that his kingdom will last forever.**

This is what we call a dual prophecy, meaning it has two fulfillments. It is first fulfilled in David's son Solomon, but it is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus who is the true temple.

God fulfilled His promise to David in that Jesus is a King in the line of David, so this kingdom has been established in Jesus. He is the King of God's people, the Jews. Christ's kingdom and conquest are greater than a mere physical kingdom, because He conquers the hearts of both Jews and Gentiles in this new covenant.

Jesus is the true temple. This is what Jesus Himself taught.

## **John 2:18-21**

**18** So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" **19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" **21** But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

## **Matthew 12:6**

**6** I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.

**So, Jesus makes reference to Himself as the temple of God, but says that He is even greater than the temple.**

**A) Let's go back to the book of Chronicles and see what is said of the Jewish temple in the Old Testament, the books of the Bible written before Jesus was born.**

## **2 Chronicles 5:7**

**7 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.**

**The temple was the center of Jewish worship. Then a few verses later it says:**

## **2 Chronicles 5:14**

**14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.**

**It says the glory of the Lord filled the temple.**

**Now, let's turn to the New Testament, the books written about the life and ministry of Jesus.**

## **John 1:14**

**14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**The word for glory here has the same meaning as the word for glory that is used for God's presence in the Jewish temple.**

**The Jewish temple is where all legitimate worship took place. It was the only place sacrifices for sin could be offered by the high priest for the sins of the people.**

**And the glory of Christ is not only compared to that temple, but Jesus said He is greater than that temple. The temple is just a type or shadow of what Jesus would be the reality of.**

### **• Types and shadows**

**Jesus is the true temple, meaning He is now the center of true worship. When we believe in Christ the Holy Spirit indwells us — Christ in you, the hope of glory. This means by extension, we are now the temple of God.**

**When the Apostle Paul writes the church in Ephesus, he says to them:**

## **Ephesians 2:21-22**

**21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**Then, Paul says to the church in Corinth:**

## **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

**16** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? **17** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

## **1 Corinthians 6:19**

**19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own

**So, the new temple where we worship God in spirit and in truth is the church body. If God's Spirit abides in us, we are now part of that body. We are now together the temple of the Living God. Anyone who has been born again by the Spirit of God becomes part of the invisible church.**

- Invisible and visible church defined

**When the Apostle Peter writes to the church, he says to them:**

## **1 Peter 2:4-5**

**4** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**All this language is the language of temple worship, but it is now being used to describe the church.**

**Then later, he says:**

## **1 Peter 2:9-10**

**9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**The church is the living temple of God offering spiritual sacrifices.**

**Who are God's people?**

**God has always had only one people, those who by faith believed in the types and shadows of the temple sacrifices and foresaw the Messiah's atonement for their sins and were thus born again by God's Spirit through faith.**

**The means of salvation has never changed. It has always been and will always be through faith in Christ, whether Old Testament saints looking forward to what the Messiah would do or New Testament saints looking back to what the Messiah has done, both are God's people saved only by faith in Christ.**

**Listen to how God addressed His people in the Old Testament.**

## **Leviticus 26:11-12**

**11** I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. **12** And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

**Doesn't that sound just like Peter writing about the church? That's the church in the Old Testament.**

## **Ezekiel 20:41**

**41** As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations.

## **Ezekiel 37:26-27**

**26** I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them.

**So, who are the people of God who have an everlasting covenant of peace? Those who have faith in the Messiah, whether Old Testament believers or New Testament believers, as Paul tells us we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. **27** My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**What is this land He promises? Is this only physical land He's promising? The land is salvation. The land the church is part of now is the Kingdom of God. In this way, God has fulfilled His promise of land to Israel, to all God's people.**

**Now, if you don't believe God has fulfilled that promise in Christ, what you're looking for**

is a rebuilt temple for the Jewish people in the end times. I think this is the same mistake that many made in the time of Jesus when they were looking for the Messiah to bring a physical kingdom and restore the glory of Israel physically.

This is why Jesus was rejected, because He didn't bring an earthly kingdom. Many of the Jews rejected Jesus because they were seeking a national/political kingdom, physical land promised to Abraham.

They were not looking for the spiritual kingdom that Jesus explained about in the parables of Matthew 13. Instead of a Messiah like Jesus who came humbly on a donkey, they wanted a Messiah who would lead an army to defeat Rome and make them a great nation again.

In other words, the Jews wanted a geopolitical kingdom much like that described by those who believe in future millennial kingdom of the end times.

When Jesus didn't offer or promise such a kingdom, many Jews at that time rejected him. But there was a remnant of Jews who

believed and they were soon to have Gentiles added to their numbers.

The point here is that God has always had only one plan for one people.

Paul writes the Gentile believers and tells them:

## **Ephesians 2:12-22**

**12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

That says there is one people of God.

God's intention has always been the same — He is building a people for Himself. But He has always had only one people. Now, we call the people of God, those who have faith in Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, the church — which is the temple of the living God.

When Jesus died on the cross, Matthew tells us:

## **Matthew 27:51**

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

When the curtain in the temple was split in two, it showed that this form of sacrifice (the blood of animals) was done away with by the death of Christ. Temple sacrifices will never be needed again, because the sacrifice of Christ for our sins was a once and for all sacrifice. This is why Jesus said to Jews who didn't believe in Him:

## **Matthew 23:38**

38 See, your house is left to you desolate.

Because He has fulfilled all the Old Testament promises. The sacrificial system of the temple is no longer needed because it's been fulfilled in Him for both Jews and Greeks and everyone in between.

Some further examples covered more briefly.

II. Jesus is the true vine.

III. Jesus is the true Israel.

D) When Jesus spoke of being the vine, anyone involved in temple worship would have understood what He meant. They did understand and that's why many of them were offended by what He said.

## **John 15:5**

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Apart from me you can do nothing. You can't get to God unless you go through Christ.

Now, listen to what the Old Testament prophets said about the vine.



## **Isaiah 5:7**

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;

**But Jesus, just as He does in all His other teachings, is saying that He is the true vine. In other words, Jesus is the true Israel.**

and he looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

**God looked to His people for justice and righteousness, but found injustice and bloodshed instead, emphasizing that bad hearts bear bad fruit. Therefore, both Jew and Gentile need new hearts.**

## **Ezekiel 15:8**

8 And I will make the land desolate, because they have acted faithlessly, declares the Lord God.”

**Again, these are sobering words from Jesus:**

## **Matthew 23:38**

38 See, your house is left to you desolate.

**It's a house without salvation. This is a controversial statement in our culture, but this is the clear teaching of Jesus Himself: any religion that denies the fulness of Christ as both Lord and God who died and rose again as the only acceptable sacrifice for the sins of humanity — is a desolate house.**

**God, through the New Testament authors, paints a picture of Jesus as fulfilling every requirement laid down in the Old Testament.**

**Scripture confirms to us that Jesus is the true Temple of the Living God, He's the true vine, He's the true Israel.**

**Jesus foretold of the destruction of the temple, but He never foretold of it being rebuilt.**

**Now, let's look at a couple more examples.**

**IV. Jesus is the true Sabbath.**

## **Colossians 2:16-17**

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a

Sabbath. **17** These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

**Promise gives way to fulfillment. Types and shadows give way to biblical reality.**

**Jesus Fulfills the Sabbath. The Sabbath was but a shadow of the peace Jesus would bring between us and God. The Sabbath is the day of rest. When we believe the gospel we rest from striving to earn God's acceptance through our own good works. We learn that this in fact is impossible, because our behavior flows from our hearts and if our hearts are corrupted by sin, then we can never fully become acceptable before God, because our hearts are always corrupted before Him. The wages of sin is death. Therefore, we have both need of forgiveness for all the bad things we have done. But we also have need of new hearts, so we might not continue to do those things.**

**V. Jesus is the true Passover.**

## **1 Corinthians 5:7-8**

**7** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **8** Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not

with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

**VI. Jesus is the true sacrifice.**

## **Hebrews 10:1-4**

**10** For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. **2** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? **3** But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **4** For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

**VII. Jesus fulfills the feasts.**

## **John 7:37-38**

**37** On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **38** Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

**Look at the Old Testament Scriptures that would have come to mind for the people Jesus was speaking to at the time, His own people, the Jewish people.**

## **Numbers 20:7-8**

7 and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 8 “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.”

## **Nehemiah 9:15**

15 You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them.

If the bread and the water from the rock can be seen as symbolic and pointing to Jesus, why not the land that Israel would possess? That land being salvation. The land the church is part of now is the Kingdom of God. In this way, God has fulfilled His promise of land to Israel.

The New Testament authors tell us that the things in the Old Testament are types and shadows of Christ. In other words, they could see the form, but not the details.

## **Hebrews 11:9-10**

9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the

same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

**Christ is now building the very kingdom Abraham was promised for He is the fulfillment of that promise.**

“Once the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon all flesh at Pentecost, Christ's kingship can now be seen for what it is--not bound to one land or nation and which spreads to the very ends of the earth through the preaching of the gospel. Before Pentecost, the disciples could not possibly understand what a true restoration of Israel's kingdom would entail. Now they see that their expectations of a national kingdom grossly underestimated what God had actually promised. Christ's kingship and his ascension to God's right hand, is what God promised to Israel. Jesus now rules and reigns over all, since his is the name which is above every other name.”

## **2 Corinthians 1:20**

20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.