**OLD TESTAMENT + NEW TESTAMENT = THE BIBLE,**

**AND ITS 21ST CENTURY RELEVANCE**

**AIM: For some. The Bible is an antiquated and outdated book written by men (“white” “men”) to further oppress and diminish certain groups of people (including people of color, women, immigrants, etc.) This lesson will reinforce that the Bible still remains a Book that reveals God’s purposes and plans for human life and provides the instructions for humans to establish and sustain holistic salvation.**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT IS STILL RELEVANT: JESUS DID NOT DESTROY THE LAW**

**Matthew 5:17-20*17****“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.* ***18****For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.****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.****20****For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

* 1. **INTRODUCTION**
1. Why did Jesus make that statement?
	* 1. This is at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry…
		2. In **Matthew 5:21-48**, Jesus is about to address the law – the rabbis’ interpretation/ understanding/ application of it against Moses’ statement of it and God’s intent of it
		3. Jesus wanted everyone to be clear regarding His position relating to the law
	1. Did Jesus destroy the law or the prophets?
		1. Jesus obeyed and taught the law and the prophets (**Matt 5:19, 20**)
		2. **Matthew 19:16-22***,* ***16****Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher,* ***what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?****”* ***17****So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.* ***But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments****.”* ***18****He said to Him, “****Which ones?****” Jesus said, “‘****You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ 19‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself****.’ ”* ***20****The young man said to Him, “****All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?****”* ***21****Jesus said to him, “****If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me****.”* ***22****But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions*
		3. Jesus stands in between: The Law as Bondage and The Law as License
		4. Jesus provides a way of salvation that meets all of the requirements of the law (**Romans 3:21, 22, 31*****21****But now* ***apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known,*** *to which the Law and the Prophets testify.****22This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ****to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,****31Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law****.*
	2. **WHAT IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS?**
		1. Basically, this meant the whole of the Old Testament. However, a strict classification required the

addition of the Hagiographa (hagios = holy, and graphia = writing = holy writings).

* + 1. **The Law, The Prophets and The Writings**
1. **The Law –** The Torah or the Pentateuch
2. **The Prophets**
	* 1. **Former Prophets:** Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings.
		2. **Latter Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel (also known as Major Prophets) and the 12 Minor Prophets.
3. **Writings –** All of the rest
	1. **WHAT DOES “DESTROY” AND “FULFILL” MEAN?**
4. Destroy = To repeal, revoke, rescind, retract. That is, to deny their divine authority; to set people free from the obligation to obey them.
5. Fulfill = To accomplish what was intended in them; to express in its full significance.
	1. **WHAT IS A “JOT” OR “TITTLE”?**
6. Jot = the smallest letter in the Hebrew language. Jot is also *iota*  the smallest Greek letter.
7. Tittle = the little bend or point which serves to distinguish certain similar Hebrew letters [ וּשְׁלֹשִׁים ]
	1. **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “BREAK” ONE OF THE COMMANDMENTS?**
8. The word “break” means to “relax” or “loose”. We are not to “break”, “relax” or “loose” the commandments
9. Or worse, we are not to teach others to “break”, “relax” or “loose” the commandments
	1. **GREATER RIGHTEOUSNESS THAN THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES…**

**THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE BIBLE**

1. **EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS**
	* 1. **JOHN 1:14, *4****And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and* ***we have seen his glory****, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.*
		2. **ACTS 4:20, *20****for we cannot keep from speaking about what* ***we have seen and heard****.”*
		3. **2 Peter 1:16-21,** *16For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,* ***but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty****. 17For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” 18****We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain****.*
		4. **1 John 1:1-**3*, 1 We declare to you what was from the beginning,* ***what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands****, concerning the word of life— 2this life was revealed,* ***and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you*** *the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— 3****what we have seen and heard we also declare to you*** *so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*
		5. **Luke 24:38-43***,* ***38****He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?****39Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have****.”****40****And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.****41****Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”****42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate in their presence.***
		6. **Jewish historian Flavius Josephus**, **Antiquities 18:63:** “About this time lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was the achiever of extraordinary deeds and was a teacher of those who accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. When he was indicted by the principal men among us and Pilate condemned him to be crucified, those who had come to love him originally did not cease to do so; for he appeared to them on the third day restored to life, as the prophets of the Deity had foretold these and countless other marvelous things about him, and the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day.”
		7. **Jewish historian Flavius Josephus**, **Antiquities 20:200: “**Having such a character [“rash and daring” in the context], Ananus thought that with Festus dead and Albinus still on the way, he would have the proper opportunity. Convening the judges of the Sanhedrin, he brought before them the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ, whose name was James, and certain others…

**THE RELEVANCE OF THE BIBLE**

* 1. **2 Timothy 3:16, 17*,*** *16All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17that the man* [woman] *of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
		1. All Scripture
		2. Given by inspiration of God. [*theopneustos* = (*theo* – God) and (*pneustos* – breathe) = God-breathed]
		3. And is profitable for: a. **Doctrine** – [teaching] Tells you where the road is
1. **Reproof** – [conviction] Tells you where you got off the road
2. **Correction** – [setting right] Tells you how to get back on the road
3. **Instruction in Righteousness**  Tells you how to stay on the toad
	* 1. Why? To equip you for every good work
	1. **Psalm 119:** This Psalm is a resource for honoring and applying the Word of God in our daily lives as the Psalmist celebrates the **authority, significance and beauty of God’s Word.**

**PSALM 119 (NRSV)**

**These verses include one of eight words to describe the Scriptures: Law, Word, Ordinances, Decrees, Commandments, Statutes, Precepts, Promises**

**1**Happy are those whose way is blameless,

 who walk in the law of the Lord.
**2**Happy are those who keep his decrees,
    who seek him with their whole heart,
**3**who also do no wrong but walk in his

 ways.
**4**You have commanded your precepts
    to be kept diligently.
**5**O that my ways may be steadfast
    in keeping your statutes!
**6**Then I shall not be put to shame, having
 my eyes fixed on all your commandments
**7**I will praise you with an upright heart,
    when I learn your righteous ordinances.
**8**I will observe your statutes;
    do not utterly forsake me.

**9**How can young people keep their way

 pure? By guarding it according to your

 word.
**10**With my whole heart I seek you; do not let

 me stray from your commandments.
**11**I treasure your word in my heart,
    so that I may not sin against you.
**12**Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your
    statutes.
**13**With my lips I declare all the
    ordinances of your mouth.
**14**I delight in the way of your decrees
    as much as in all riches.
**15**I will meditate on your precepts
    and fix my eyes on your ways.
**16**I will delight in your statutes;
    I will not forget your word.

**17**Deal bountifully with your servant, so that

 I may live and observe your word.
**18**Open my eyes, so that I may behold
    wondrous things out of your law.
**19**I live as an alien in the land; do not hide

 your commandments from me.
**20**My soul is consumed with longing
    for your ordinances at all times.
**21**You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,
    who wander from your commandments
**22**take away from me their scorn and

 contempt, for I have kept your decrees.
**23**Even though princes sit plotting against

 me, your servant will meditate on your

 statutes.
**24**Your decrees are my delight; they are my

 counselors.

**25**My soul clings to the dust; revive me

 according to your word.
**26**When I told of my ways, you answered

 me; teach me your statutes.
**27**Make me understand the way of your

 precepts, and I will meditate on your

 wondrous works.
**28**My soul melts away for sorrow;
    strengthen me according to your word.
**29**Put false ways far from me, and

 graciously teach me your law.
**30**I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
    I set your ordinances before me.
**31**I cling to your decrees, O Lord; let me not

 be put to shame.
**32**I run the way of your commandments,
    for you enlarge my understanding.

**33**Teach me, O Lord, the way of your

 statutes, and I will observe it to the end.
**34**Give me understanding, that I may keep

 your law and observe it with my whole

 heart.
**35**Lead me in the path of your

 commandments, for I delight in it.
**36**Turn my heart to your decrees and not to

 selfish gain.
**37**Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
 be gracious to me according to your word
**38**Confirm to your servant your promise,
    which is for those who fear you.
**39**Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for

 your ordinances are good.
**40**See, I have longed for your precepts;
   in your righteousness be gracious to me.

**41**Let your steadfast love come to me, O

 Lord, your salvation according to your

 promise.
**42**Then I shall have an answer for those who

 taunt me, for I trust in your word.
**43**Do not take the word of truth utterly out of

 my mouth, for my hope is in your

 ordinances.
**44**I will keep your law continually,
    forever and ever.
**45**I shall walk at liberty, for I have sought

 your precepts.
**46**I will also speak of your decrees before

 kings and shall not be put to shame;
**47**I find my delight in your

 commandments because I love them.
**48**I revere your commandments, which I

 love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

**49**Remember your word to your servant,
    in which you have made me hope.
**50**This is my comfort in my distress,
    that your promise gives me life.
**51**The arrogant utterly deride me, but I do

 not turn away from your law.
**52**When I think of your ordinances from of

 old, I take comfort, O Lord.
**53**Hot indignation seizes me because of the

 wicked, those who forsake your law.
**54**Your statutes have been my songs
    wherever I make my home.
**55**I remember your name in the night,

 O Lord, and keep your law.
**56**This blessing has fallen to me,
    for I have kept your precepts.

**57**The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep

 your words.
**58**I implore your favor with all my heart; be

 gracious to me according to your promise.
**59**When I think of your ways, I turn my feet

 to your decrees;
**60**I hurry and do not delay to keep your

 commandments.
**61**Though the cords of the wicked ensnare

 me, I do not forget your law.
**62**At midnight I rise to praise you, because

 of your righteous ordinances.
**63**I am a companion of all who fear you,
    of those who keep your precepts.
**64**The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast

 love; teach me your statutes.

**65**You have dealt well with your servant,
    O Lord, according to your word.
**66**Teach me good judgment and knowledge,

  for I believe in your commandments.
**67**Before I was humbled I went astray,
    but now I keep your word.
**68**You are good and do good; teach me your

 statutes.
**69**The arrogant smear me with lies, but with

 my whole heart I keep your precepts.
**70**Their hearts are thick like fat, but I delight

 in your law.
**71**It is good for me that I was humbled,
    so that I might learn your statutes.
**72**The law of your mouth is better to me
 than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

**73**Your hands have made and fashioned

 me; give me understanding that I may

 learn your commandments.
**74**Those who fear you shall see me and

 rejoice, because I have hoped in your

 word
**75**I know, O Lord, that your judgments are

 right and that in faithfulness you have

 humbled me.
**76**Let your steadfast love become my

 comfort according to your promise to

 your servant.
**77**Let your mercy come to me, that I may

 live, for your law is my delight.
**78**Let the arrogant be put to shame, for they

 have subverted me with guile; as for me, I

 will meditate on your precepts.
**79**Let those who fear you turn to me, so that

 they may know your decrees.
**80**May my heart be blameless in your

 statutes, so that I may not be put to shame

**81**My soul languishes for your salvation; I

 hope in your word.
**82**My eyes fail with watching for your

 promise; I ask, “When will you comfort

 me?”
**83**For I have become like a wineskin in the

 smoke, yet I have not forgotten your

 statutes.
**84**How long must your servant endure?

 When will you judge those who persecute

 me?
**85**The arrogant have dug pitfalls for me;
    they flout your law.
**86**All your commandments are enduring; I

 am persecuted without cause; help me!
**87**They have almost made an end of me on

 earth, but I have not forsaken your precepts

**88**In your steadfast love spare my life, so

 that I may keep the decrees of your mouth

**89**The Lord exists forever; your word is

 firmly fixed in heaven.
**90**Your faithfulness endures to all

 generations; you have established the

 earth, and it stands fast.
**91**By your appointment they stand today, for

 all things are your servants.
**92**If your law had not been my delight, I

 would have perished in my misery.
**93**I will never forget your precepts, for by

 them you have given me life.
**94**I am yours; save me, for I have sought

 your precepts.
**95**The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I

 consider your decrees.
**96**I have seen a limit to all perfection, but

 your commandment is exceedingly broad.

**97**Oh, how I love your law! It is my

 meditation all day long.
**98**Your commandment makes me wiser than

 my enemies, for it is always with me.
**99**I have more understanding than all my

 teachers, for your decrees are my

 meditation.
**100**I understand more than the aged, for I

 keep your precepts.
**101**I hold back my feet from every evil

 way, in order to keep your word.
**102**I do not turn away from your

 ordinances, for you have taught me.
**103**How sweet are your words to my taste,

 sweeter than honey to my mouth!
**104**Through your precepts I get

 understanding; therefore I hate every false

 way.

**105**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a

 light to my path.
**106**I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to

 observe your righteous ordinances.
**107**I am severely afflicted; give me life,

 O Lord, according to your word.
**108**Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,

 and teach me your ordinances.
**109**I hold my life in my hand continually,
 but I do not forget your law.
**110**The wicked have laid a snare for me,
 but I do not stray from your precepts.
**111**Your decrees are my heritage forever;
 they are the joy of my heart.
**112**I incline my heart to perform your

 statutes forever, to the end.

**113**I hate the double-minded, but I love your

 law.
**114**You are my hiding place and my shield; I

 hope in your word.
**115**Go away from me, you evildoers, that I

 may keep the commandments of my God.
**116**Uphold me according to your promise,

 that I may live, and let me not be put to

 shame in my hope.
**117**Hold me up, that I may be safe and have

 regard for your statutes continually.
**118**You spurn all who go astray from your

 statutes, for their cunning is in vain.
**119**All the wicked of the earth I count as

 dross; therefore I love your decrees.
**120**My flesh trembles for fear of you,
 and I am afraid of your judgments.

**121**I have done what is just and right;
 do not leave me to my oppressors.
**122**Guarantee your servant’s well-being;
 do not let the godless oppress me.
**123**My eyes fail from watching for your

 salvation and for the fulfillment of your

 righteous promise.
**124**Deal with your servant according to your

 steadfast love, and teach me your statutes.
**125**I am your servant; give me

 understanding, so that I may know your

 decrees.
**126**It is time for the Lord to act, for your law

 has been broken.
**127**Truly I love your commandments more

 than gold, more than fine gold.
**128**Truly I direct my steps by all your

 precepts; I hate every false way.

**129**Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my

 soul keeps them.
**130**The unfolding of your words gives light;

 it imparts understanding to the simple
**131**With open mouth I pant, because I long

 for your commandments.
**132**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is

 your custom toward those who love your

 name.
**133**Keep my steps steady according to your

 promise and never let iniquity have

 dominion over me.
**134**Redeem me from human oppression,
  that I may keep your precepts.
**135**Make your face shine upon your

 servant, and teach me your statutes.
**136**My eyes shed streams of tears because

 your law is not kept.

**137**You are righteous, O Lord, and your

 judgments are right.
**138**You have appointed your decrees in

 righteousness and in all faithfulness.
**139**My zeal consumes me because my foes

 forget your words.
**140**Your promise is well tried, and your

 servant loves it.
**141**I am small and despised, yet I do not

 forget your precepts.
**142**Your righteousness is an everlasting

 righteousness, and your law is the truth.
**143**Trouble and anguish have come upon me,

 but your commandments are my delight.
**144**Your decrees are righteous forever;
  give me understanding that I may live.

**145**With my whole heart I cry; answer me,

 O Lord. I will keep your statutes.
**146**I cry to you; save me, that I may observe

 your decrees.
**147**I rise before dawn and cry for help; I put

 my hope in your words.
**148**My eyes are awake before each watch of

 the night, that I may meditate on your

 promise.
**149**In your steadfast love hear my voice;
 O Lord, in your justice preserve my life.
**150**Those who persecute me with evil

 purpose draw near; they are far from your

 law.
**151**Yet you are near, O Lord, and all your

 commandments are true.
**152**Long ago I learned from your decree that

 you have established them forever.

**153**Look on my misery and rescue me, for I

 do not forget your law.
**154**Plead my cause and redeem me; give me

 life according to your promise.
**155**Salvation is far from the wicked, for they

 do not seek your statutes.
**156**Great is your mercy, O Lord; be gracious

 to meaccording to your justice.
**157**Many are my persecutors and my

 adversaries, yet I do not swerve from

 your decrees.
**158**I look at the faithless with disgust
 because they do not keep your commands
**159**Consider how I love your precepts; be

 gracious to me according to your

 steadfast love.
**160**The sum of your word is truth, and every

 one of your righteous ordinances endures

 forever.

**161**Princes persecute me without cause, but

 my heart stands in awe of your words.
**162**I rejoice at your word like one who finds

 great spoil.
**163**I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love

 your law.
**164**Seven times a day I praise you for your

 righteous ordinances.
**165**Great peace have those who love your

 law; nothing can make them stumble.
**166**I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I

 fulfill your commandments.
**167**My soul keeps your decrees; I love them

 exceedingly.
**168**I keep your precepts and decrees, for all

 my ways are before you.

**169**Let my cry come before you, O Lord;

 give me understanding according to your

 word.
**170**Let my supplication come before you;
 deliver me according to your promise.
**171**My lips will pour forth praise, because

 you teach me your statutes.
**172**My tongue will sing of your promise,
 for all your commandments are right.
**173**Let your hand be ready to help me,
 for I have chosen your precepts.
**174**I long for your salvation, O Lord,
 and your law is my delight.
**175**Let me live that I may praise you,
 and let your ordinances help me.
**176**I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek

 out your servant, for I do not forget your

 commandments.