

### What Did 'I Am Fulfilling Torah' Mean:

When Yeshua said he came to 'fulfil the Torah' he meant to correctly interpret and enact it.

To 'destroy the Torah' was to interpret in incorrectly. Torah means 'God's Instructions' and the 10 Words are the very core of that Torah.

Matt 5:20, "**Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven**," is illuminated by the insight that the halacha (the way); of the Pharisees had been reduced to almsgiving, and Yeshua was calling for a greater halacha; God's halacha (the way of righteousness).

Matt 5:17-18, "**Do not think that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say to you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled,**" is explained by showing the typical Hebrew rabbinic phrases employed in this statement evidently aimed at other rabbis.

The Hebrew idiom "I have come" obviously means "it is my purpose to," and the terms "destroy" and "fulfil" were commonly employed in Yeshua's day as technical terms in rabbinic argumentation. When a rabbi felt that his colleague had misinterpreted a passage of Scripture, he would say, 'You are destroying the Law.' Needless to say, in most cases his colleague strongly disagreed. What was 'destroying the Law' for one rabbi, was 'fulfilling the Torah' (correctly interpreting Scripture) for another.

Thus, it is Yeshua's method of interpretation that is under consideration here.

Hence, to paraphrase, he is saying "**never imagine for a moment that I intend to abrogate the Law by misinterpreting it. My intent is not to weaken or negate the Torah, but by properly interpreting God's Written Word I aim to establish it, that is, make it even more lasting. I would never invalidate the Torah by effectively removing something from it through interpretation. Heaven and earth would sooner disappear than something from the Torah. Not the smallest letter in the (Hebrew) alphabet, the yod nor even its decorative spur, will ever disappear from the Torah**"

Paul uses the same terminology in Rom. 3:31:5 "*Do we then make void the Torah (Law) through the faith? By no means! On the contrary, we establish (or fulfil) the Torah.*"

Two examples that I think illustrate this well are Gal 6:2 and Romans 13:10.

Try reading these passages and replacing 'fulfil' with 'correctly interpret and enact' and hopefully you will see what I mean:

**Gal 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the Torah of Messiah.**

**Romans 13:10 "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the Torah."**

This context is of course perfectly in harmony with God's pronouncement to Moses that he would send a Prophet who would perfectly declare the Torah (that is, who would 'fulfil' it).

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