

"I AM NOT COME," #1

INTRODUCTION

- I. The word "come" is found thousands of times in the Bible.
 - A. There are actually some 39 varied words that are translated "come" in the N.T.
 - B. However, the one word *exchromai* (meaning "to go out or forth," VINE, p. 108). is used several times by Jesus with reference to His coming into the world, but only 5 times in the book of Matthew, where His coming is **contrasted** with why He did "not come" and He then states why he "did come".
 1. These are found in Matthew and John, but we are confining this study to what Matthew writes.
 2. Each reference uses the word "**not**" and the word "**but**", showing a **CONTRAST**.
 - C. From these statements by Jesus we get the title for our lesson, "I am not come", and we are NOT implying Jesus did NOT come at all, but that He did not come for certain purposes stated, but for a **contrasting** purpose.
- II. In this study, we will look at each reference in the book of Matthew where the contrast is made.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the contrast between DESTROY and FULFILL. Matt. 5:17-18

- A. The word "destroy" in this passage is from the Greek word *kataluo*, which means to "destroy utterly" (Young, p. 251), and Jesus said HE did not come to utterly destroy or annihilate the law of Moses.
 1. Some translations, such as the NASB and ESV, render the word in this passage as "abolish", but such creates a conflict between Jesus and Paul in Eph. 2:15 where he stated that Christ DID abolish the law.
 - a. The word for "destroy" in Matt. 5:17 is *kataluo* means to tear down or destroy completely.
 - b. The word for "abolish" is *katargeo*, meaning "to make of none effect" (Young, p. 251), or "to render to inactivity" (VINE, p. 3), and THIS is what Jesus **did** to the law of Moses, rendering it **inactive**, but He did NOT annihilate it, but fulfilled it and took out of the way. 2 Cor. 3:11; Col. 2:14
 2. So, when Jesus came to earth from heaven, it was NOT to be destructive of the law of Moses (a good law, but did not provide for man's salvation) Rom. 7:12; Gal. 3:19, 21
- B. Then, in contrast with why Jesus did NOT come to do, He came to "fulfill. Matt. 5:17
 1. First, Jesus came to give a fuller and deeper meaning to the law, as He went to the "heart" where these things originate.
 - a. For instance, while the law condemned the ACT of adultery, Jesus places sin at the heart when he looks on a woman for the purpose of such an act.
 - b. While the law condemned the ACT of murder, Jesus condemned hatred in the heart, from which comes the act of murder.
 - c. While the law allowed "hatred" of an enemy (unkindness, cf Deut. 23:1-7; Matt. 10:37; Luke 14:26), Christ said we are to "love" our enemies, or be kind to them.
 - d. While the law allowed divorce (Deut. 24:1-4), Jesus condemns the sin of fornication, which causes many divorces. Matt. 5:31-32
 2. Second, Jesus came in the fulfillment of prophecy about His coming to offer salvation. Rom. 1:16-17; 10:1-4
 3. Third, Jesus came to perfectly keep the law, without any act of sin. Heb. 2:18; 2:18; 1 Pet. 2:22

4. Fourth, Jesus came to fulfill the prophecies and shadows of Him in the Old Testament.
 - a. He came in the prophetic conception and **birth** to a virgin. Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:22-24
 - b. He also came to fulfill prophecies about His **death** as had been foretold. Psa. 16:8-11; Acts 2:23; Psa. 22:14-18; John 19:31-36
 - c. Jesus also came to fulfill His role as “our **Passover**”. Exo. 11:5-11; 1 Cor. 5:7
 - d. Jesus also came to fulfill prophecies about His **resurrection** from the dead. Psa. 22:14-18; Acts 2:24-27
5. Fifth, Jesus fulfilled the requirements of **death for sin**, as He died in our place as we deserve death because of our sins—sparing us eternal death. Gal. 5:13
 - a. Isaiah foretold of the coming Messiah who would have “borne” our griefs. Isa. 53:4, 12
 - b. Jesus “fulfilled” this as He “bore” our sins for us, when He became a “curse for us” (Gal. 3:13) as He fulfilled Deut. 21:23, dying for **our sins**, and not His own.
 - c. This was a **fulfilling of scripture**. Matt. 8:17; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 2:24

II. 2nd, let’s notice some more contrasts as to WHY Jesus NOT come with why He DID come.

- A. There are actually three more contrasts for our consideration in the book of Matthew.
- B. However, due to the length of the first contrast we have considered, we shall save the next 3 points for another lesson.

CONCLUSION

- I. The world is made better because Jesus came.
 - A. The salvation Jesus brought is available to all who confess their faith, repent of sins and are immersed in water to contact the saving blood of Jesus.
 - B. Christ WILL return some day, and those who have died to sin as He died on the cross, and have been raised to a new life in Him, shall meet Him in the sky to go to our heavenly home. 1 Thess. 4:13-18

II. Are you ready to meet the Lord?

DON TARBET (Thanks to material by Cecil May for the inspiration of this outline)