

God Closed The Book

- The Old Covenant Was Fulfilled
- The New Testament Was Fully Delivered
- The Finality of Christ's Authority
- When God Closes Our Book

In [Luke chapter 4](#), Jesus entered the synagogue, stood up to read from Isaiah, and after reading,

- The Bible says, “**He closed the book.**”

That action was simple — but powerful.

When something is closed, it is finished.

- When a teacher closes the textbook, the lesson is complete.
- When a judge closes the case file, the decision is final.

Has God finished speaking through revelation? Has He completed His message to mankind?

This morning, we will see that:

- The Old Testament was fulfilled.
- The New Testament was fully delivered.
- Christ’s Word is final.
- And One day, God will close the book on our lives.

Before we talk about our lives ending,

We must first understand what God has already completed in His plan.

I. The Old Covenant Was Fulfilled

Before we can understand what it means that God “closed the Book,” we must first understand what the Old Covenant was designed to do.

The Old Testament was **Not** an accident.

It was **Not** temporary, because it failed.

It was temporary, because it had a purpose.

Let us carefully consider that purpose.

A. Prophecy Pointed to a Coming Completion

Before Christ came, God gave promises through the prophets that something new would be established “**in the last days.**”

Consider Isaiah’s prophecy:

- “**And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established... for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.**” ([Isa.2:2-3](#))

Explanation:

- “**Last days**” refers to the final age of God’s redemptive plan, through His Son ([Heb.1:1-2](#)).
- “**The Lord’s house**” is later revealed to be the church ([1Tim.3:15](#)).
- “**Zion**” and “**Jerusalem**” identify the location of its beginning.

Now let us see when that prophecy was fulfilled.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter declared:

- “**But THIS is THAT** which was spoken by the prophet Joel...
And it shall come to pass in the last days...” ([Acts 2:16-17](#))

Explanation:

- “**This is that**” means — this is the fulfillment.
- The “**last days**” began at Pentecost (read [Acts 2:1-5](#)).
- The prophecy was not still future — it was realized in the first century.

The Old Testament was pointing forward.

When Pentecost came and the church began, prophecy reached fulfillment.

God was turning the page.

But prophecy was not the only purpose of the Old Covenant.

We must now ask — why did God give the Law in the first place?

B. The Law Was a Schoolmaster — Temporary by Design

The apostle Paul explains the temporary nature of the Law, in Galatians,

By answering the question, “What was the purpose of the Law?”

- “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster, to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” ([Gal.3:24–25](#))

Explanation:

- “Schoolmaster” refers to a guardian or tutor who supervised a child.
- The Law guided Israel, until Christ came.
- “No longer under” — shows its temporary design.

The Law was never meant to be permanent. It was designed to lead people to Christ.

Now consider another related truth.

- “Wherefore then serveth the law?

It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come...” ([Gal.3:19](#))

Explanation:

- “Because of transgressions” means — to define and restrain sin.
- “Till the seed should come” refers to Christ ([Gal.3:16](#)).
- The Law had an expiration point, built into it.

The Old Covenant was not abolished in anger. It completed its assignment.

If the Law was a tutor, then what exactly did it teach?

C. The Law Revealed Sin — But Could Not Save

The Law had power — but not saving power.

Paul explains its true role:

- He said, “Therefore by the deeds of the law, there shall no flesh be **justified** in His sight: for by the law, is the knowledge of sin.” ([Rom.3:20](#))

Explanation:

- “Justified” means — declared righteous.
- The Law revealed sin — it did not remove it.
- It functioned as a mirror, not a remedy.

- Paul continues: “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid.

Nay, I had **Not known** sin, but by the law...” ([Rom.7:7](#))

Explanation:

- The Law defined wrongdoing.
- Without it, Paul says he would not have understood coveting.

The Bible says,

- “For if there had been a law given, which could have **given life**, verily righteousness should have been by the law.” ([Gal.3:21](#))

Explanation:

- “Given life” means — provide spiritual salvation.
- If the Law could save, Christ would not have been necessary.

The Law revealed sin. Christ removed sin.

But Scripture describes the Old Covenant, in yet another powerful way.

D. The Law Was a Shadow — Christ Is the Substance

The Hebrew writer explains this clearly.

Remember, shadows are not the object — they point to it.

- “For the law having a **shadow** of good things to come, and **Not the very image** of the things...” ([Heb.10:1](#))

Explanation:

- “**Shadow**” means — an outline or preview.
- “**Very image**” means — the full true reality.
- The sacrifices were a shadow or preview — Christ is the fulfillment.

Later, the writer speaks of a “time of reformation”; He said,

- “**Which stood only in meats and drinks... imposed on them, until the time of reformation.**” ([Heb.9:10](#))

Explanation:

- “**Reformation**” means — correction or setting right.
- That time arrived, when Christ established the New Covenant.

The Old Covenant was a shadow. Christ is the substance.

When the substance arrives, the shadow has served its purpose.

Now, none of this means, that the Old Testament is useless.

We must be very clear regarding,

E. The Proper Use of the Old Testament Today

Even though the Old Covenant has been fulfilled, the Scriptures remain inspired and profitable.

Consider Paul’s words:

- “**For whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our **learning**, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures, might have hope.**” ([Rom.15:4](#))

Explanation:

- “**Aforetime**” refers to Old Testament writings.
- “**Learning**” means — instruction.
- The Old Testament builds patience and hope.

- The Bible says, “**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** ¹⁷ **that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**” ([2Tim.3:16–17](#))

Explanation:

- “**Inspiration**” means — God-breathed.
- The Old Testament remains divinely useful.
- It instructs, corrects, and trains.

We do not discard the Old Testament. We understand its proper place.

It foretold Christ. It prepared for Christ. It pointed to Christ.

And when Christ came — God closed that covenant.

The Old Covenant:

- Was prophetic — pointing to Christ.
- Was temporary — serving as a schoolmaster.
- Revealed sin — but could not save.
- Was a shadow — pointing to the substance.
- It remains inspired — for learning and warning.

When Christ died, rose, and established His church, the Old Covenant reached its completion. God did not destroy it. He fulfilled it. And in fulfilling it — He closed that Book.

But if the Old Covenant was fulfilled, what about the New?

II. The New Testament, Was Fully Delivered

A. God Spoke Fully Through His Son

Hebrews begins by explaining how God revealed Himself over time.

- “God, who at **sundry times** (or many portions) and in **divers manners** (or different ways) spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
² hath in **these last days** spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;” ([Heb.1:1–2](#))

Explanation:

- “**in these last days**” means — God has spoken by His Son.
- This indicates completion — not continuation.

But how did the Son, ensure that His full message, would be revealed and preserved?

Before His death, Jesus shared with His apostles, about the coming of the Holy Spirit.

- He said, “I have yet **many things to say** unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will **guide you into all truth...**” ([Jn.16:12–13](#))

Explanation:

- “**Many things to say**” means — The teachings of Christ, was not yet fully delivered.
- “**Guide you into all truth**” means — the apostles would receive complete revelation.
- “**All truth**” indicates fullness, not partial continuation.
- This promise was fulfilled in the apostolic age ([Acts 2:1–5](#)).

The Lord did not leave His revelation unfinished.

Through the Holy Spirit, the apostles were guided, into the complete message.

Now hear what Jesus said about His words.

- “He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth Not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him, in the last day.” ([Jn.12:48](#))

Explanation:

- “**The word**” is the standard.
- There is no mention of a later message ([Jude vs.3](#); [Gal.1:6–9](#)).
- The Word of Christ, is final and sufficient.

If the Son, is God’s final revelation, then No further revelation is needed.

But how do we know, that the message was fully written and preserved?

B. The Faith Was Once Delivered

Jude wrote during a time, when false teachers were rising.

- He said, "...earnestly contend for the faith, which was **once delivered** unto the saints." ([Jude vs.3](#))

Explanation:

- "Once" means — once for all time.
- "Delivered" means — handed over completely.
- There is no second delivery of God's message.

Now consider the authority, of apostolic writing.

- "...the things that I write unto you, are the **commandments of the Lord.**" ([1Cor.14:37](#))

Explanation:

- Paul says what he wrote, was not personal opinions — but "commandments of the Lord."

The gospel was revealed. The apostles wrote it down.

The faith was delivered once for all time. The revelation of God's Book is closed.

If revelation is complete, Then we must understand the authority, of what has been written.

III. The Finality of Christ's Authority

A. No Additions, and No Subtractions

Before we speak of warnings, against adding or subtracting, we must first understand where all authority rests.

After His resurrection, Jesus declared:

- "**All power** is given unto Me **in heaven and in earth.**" ([Matt.28:18](#))

Explanation:

- "All power" means — all authority.
- "In heaven and in earth" means — universal authority.
- There is No higher voice, No higher court, and No higher revelation.

Because Christ possesses all authority,

His Word carries final and binding force.

Now we understand, why no one may add to it or take from it.

As the Bible closes, God gave a solemn warning, to the New Testament Christians in the 1st century.

- He said, "**For I testify unto every man, that HEARETH the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall ADD unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:** ¹⁹ **and IF any man shall TAKE Away from the words, of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part, OUT of the book of life, and OUT of the holy city, and FROM the things, which are written in this book.**" ([Rev.22:18-19](#))

Explanation:

- "add" means — to insert additional revelation.
- "take away" means — to remove what God has given.
- The message from God is complete.

Now consider the importance of remaining within the teachings of Christ. The Bible says,

- “**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth NOT in the doctrine of Christ, hath NOT God.**” ([2Jn.vs.9](#))

Explanation:

- “**Transgresseth**” means — to go beyond.
- “**Abideth**” means — to remain within.
- To go beyond the teachings of Christ, is to lose fellowship with God.

When a contract is signed and sealed, one cannot rewrite it.

God’s covenant stands complete.

And this completeness, affects something very personal.

B. The Word Will Judge Us

The same Word that saves, will judge.

- Jesus said, “**...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**” ([Jn.12:48](#))

Explanation:

- The standard of judgment, will not change.
- The Word of God is fixed.

Now consider our responsibility.

- “**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only , deceiving your own selves.**” ([Jas.1:22](#))

Explanation:

- “**Hearers only**”, are self-deceived.
- “**Doers**”, obey and apply.

The Word of Christ is final.

- It cannot be altered.
- It will judge us, so therefore the urgency to respond now.

That brings us to the most sobering truth of all.

IV. When God Closes Our Book

A. The Certainty of Judgment

Every life has an appointment.

- “**It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.**” ([Heb.9:27](#))

Explanation:

- “**Appointed**” means — fixed or determined.
- Death is certain and Judgment follows.

Scripture further teaches that this judgment, will involve every individual, without exception.

- “**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.**” ([2Cor.5:10](#))

Explanation:

- “**Must all appear**” means — no one is exempt.
- “**Judgment seat**” refers to a place of evaluation.
- “**Receive the things done**” means — accountability for personal choices (both “**good or bad**”).

Judgment is not theoretical. It is personal. And it is universal.

Now see how judgment is described.

- John wrote, “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the **books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is the **book of life**: and the dead were judged out of those things, which were written in the books, according to their works.” ([Rev.20:12](#))

Explanation:

- “**Books were opened**” means — records examined.
- “**Book of life**” means — the record of the saved or those redeemed.

When God closes our earthly book (yours and mine), there will be no revisions.

The final question, is deeply personal.

B. Is Your Name or Mine, Written There?

Jesus speaks of names, remaining written.

- He said, “**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name, out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**” ([Rev.3:5](#))

Explanation:

- “**Blot out**” means — erase.
- Faithfulness, preserves one’s eternal standing with God.

Now hear the urgent call.

- “**...arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins...**” ([Acts 22:16](#))

Explanation:

- “**Wash away**” indicates removal of guilt and spiritual cleanliness before God.
- Obedience is immediate — “**why tarriest thou?**” means — “Why wait?”

When God closes the Book on time — Will your name or mine, remain written there?

V. In Summary

- God has closed the Old Covenant.
- God completed His revelation.
- The Word of Christ is final.
- And One day, God will close our book.

The only safe place to stand, when the Book closes, is IN Christ Jesus ([Gal.3:26-27](#)).