

Every Stroke Inspired: Embracing Jesus' High View of Scripture – Pt. 2

Matthew 5:17–20

—
Tom Pennington

Dec. 7, 2025

MAIN IDEA: The heart of the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' explanation of the Old Testament Scripture—the fact that He didn't come to abolish it but to fulfill it. In other words, Jesus embraced the Old Testament and held a high view of it during His life in ministry. But the question for you is: What is your view of the Bible? As citizens of Jesus' kingdom, our view of Scripture must replicate Jesus' view—that is, a true subject of Jesus' spiritual kingdom must have a right relationship to Scripture

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. Affirm Jesus' Relationship to Scripture (17)
- II. Adopt Jesus' View of Scripture (18)
 - A. Its Permanent Authority – "until heaven and earth pass away"
 - B. Its Verbal Inspiration – "not the smallest letter or stroke"
 - C. Its Plenary Inspiration – "until all"

"Not the Smallest Letter or Stroke"

- Lit., "One yōta or one little horn, no not at all shall pass away."
- "Smallest letter"
 - In Greek
 - Its name is "ἰῶτα", pronounced yōta.
 - It resembles our lower case "i".
 - It's equivalent to the English letter "I".
 - In Hebrew
 - Its name is "yodh", pronounced yōth.
 - It's equivalent to English "Y".
 - It looks like our apostrophe:
 - > 66,000 yodhs in the OT
 - Jesus says, "Not one shall pass!"

"Not the Smallest Letter or Stroke"

- Lit., "One yōta or one little horn, no not at all shall pass away."
- "Stroke"
 - Lit., "little horn"
 - The small pen stroke or projection that distinguishes one Hebrew letter from another
 - Cf. the English capitals of O and Q
 -] beth] vs. ך] kaf]

1. Review what it means for the Bible to be permanently authoritative. Why is it crucial that every Christian submit to the authority of God's Word? What does this practically look like in the context of the local church? Marriage? Home? Workplace? Etc.
2. So far in our study of Matthew 5:17–20, do you, as a citizen of Christ's kingdom, find your view of Scripture to be like Jesus' view? What about this series has challenged your theological convictions about the Bible? What about this series has helped you practically?