

Matt. 24:32-34 PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE (Luke 13:6-9, 19:1-10)

“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 34 “Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.**”

The following is a very brief explanation of the story of the fig tree (sycamore), connected with Zaccheus the tax collector. The eight to ten inch huge leaves of the sycamore tree, sometimes called sycamore figs, were heart shaped. Keep in mind the fig tree and the wood of it in prophesy represents the nations of the world other than Israel. Remember Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves, because they were so large. In Hebrew a fig leaf is considered to be an excuse. By covering themselves with fig leaves, they were covering themselves with excuses. ***What was considered the poor man's offering was wood from the fig tree.***

Prophetically speaking the fig tree (sycamore), and the wood of it represent the nations of the world other than Israel. The olive tree represents Israel.

First I must explain about the fig tree. It is like few other trees in a sense that its buds come out early (Feb.) but no leaves appear until there is fruit in May. Its flowers are pollinated by tiny insects called “fig wasps” that attach themselves to one specific fig tree. “Symbolically you might say that we as people of the way (like the wasps) attach ourselves to one Rabbi Yeshua”. The wasps go inside the fruit (bud) to pollinate the flower.

A This parable is thematically connected to Luke 19:1-10, and 13:6-9. One of the basic principals is religious leadership that bears no fruit. Pharisees (supposed pastors) with long gowns or tzitzit on their garments and broad phylacteries, so as to appear holy, but bear no fruit (Matt 23:1-37). Yeshua is talking about hypocrites. Here we see Yeshua using nature again to demonstrate what was going on with many of the Pharisees (supposed set apart ones). Many of the Rabbis, even those who claimed to be following Him (for 3 years) had absolutely no fruit. The Pharisees had an outward appearance of faith and obedience but there was no action to coincide with the faith. “Faith without works (fruit), is dead”. There was no fruit. He is making a general statement here that if one proclaims to be holy and still bears no fruit, there is something wrong with the tree and it needs to be cut down. This concept can be made obvious in churches today where the preacher dresses nicely, talks in a charismatic fashion, tells cute jokes, is very popular, but bears no fruit. He has no fruit of the spirit. This also applies to most people who proclaim to be Believers yet after three years are still in kinder-garden, immature trees with no fruit. They are NOT His trees in the first place. His trees bare fruit after three years. They need to be cut down.

B The United Nations voted to establish the Nation of Israel Nov. 29th 1947. The fig tree spoken of in this parable is no doubt the Nation of Israel. We are the generation spoken of in this verse.

Matt. 24:35-36 ***“Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”*** Some believe that Yeshua is saying here that after the great tribulation, after the millennial

reign is over and the earth as we know it and the heavens as we know it will pass away, but His Word will not. It is also referring to the generation.

There are various verses in scripture that hint of a generation maybe being seventy years. The number seventy is mentioned a few times in Jeremiah, could the captivity of the Jews in Babylon for seventy years be significant as stated, no one can be sure, but it's certainly food for thought. Let's have a look: **Jer. 25:11** *'This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon **seventy years.*** **Jer. 29:10** *"For thus says the LORD, '**When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.**'"*

Now prophetically speaking, we see Yeshua was giving us a hint of when the "Day of the Lord" was coming, by reminding us of the cycle of the fig tree. The end of the fig tree cycle was in the fall during the Fall Feasts. That's when Yeshua returns.

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