

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

In order to get the fulness of the parable, we must look at the thematic and prophetic connections evident. Pay close attention when reading these verses.

**Matt. 24:32-34** *“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.**”*

**Luke 19:1-10** *And He entered and was passing through Jericho. 2 And behold, there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; and he was a chief tax-gatherer, and he was rich. 3 And he was trying to see who Yeshua was, and he was unable because of the crowd, for **he was small in stature.** 4 And he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. 5 And when Yeshua came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” 6 And he hurried and came down, and received Him gladly. 7 And when they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” 8 And Zaccheus stopped and said to Adonai, “Behold, Adonai, **half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.**” 9 And Yeshua said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*



Zaccheus the "Tax Collector" is thematically connected to the parable of the fig tree and the prophesy of the fig tree. First I must explain about the fig tree.

### **FIG TREE (SYCAMORE)**

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, when a fig leaf is used symbolically, it is in reference to something being covered up, it is considered as an excuse. By covering themselves with fig leaves, they were covering themselves with excuses. It is like few other trees in a sense that its buds come out early, (February) 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. In the Temple, what was considered the poor man's offering was wood from the fig tree.

Yeshua saw Zaccheus in the fig tree. Yeshua knew he was a good man and truly wanted to understand what was being spoken. Yeshua knew there was fruit in the man, hidden to those who refused to look at him closely. The flower of repentance was inside Zaccheus but the people never recognized the blossom. In their eyes, he was simply a bad tax collector. Zaccheus, who came as a child, was the fruit hidden under the leaves of the fig tree and Yeshua decided it was time for him to come out and share his fruit.

Zaccheus (meaning "innocence" in Hebrew), didn't come out of the fig tree and ask what he should do, he said what he would do. He offered half his money right up front to help the poor. The other half was to be used to make restitution to those he had cheated in the past. He admitted that he had cheated and said he would pay them back four times as much as the law required. **Exod. 21:37** "If someone steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters or sells it, he is to pay five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep." (CJB) This would mean that he would be left with nothing, that he would be giving his all to follow Yeshua's teaching. He was restoring things to those he cheated and would be left with nothing. **Deut. 18:13** "You shall be blameless before Adonai your Yahveh." Zaccheus wanted to show the people he was a changed man and he did so. He had faith. He not only had faith, but he was willing to put that faith into action by restoring himself in the eyes of the people.

Believe is a verb, it includes action, and Zaccheus by his willingness to give up everything he had accumulated, was publicly putting his faith into action. This is what every person who claims to believe in Yeshua should do in his life. We must be willing to give our all in order to accept the blessings and peace Yah makes available to all those who are verbs. All those who are reaching toward eternal salvation with the King of Kings.

## **A THEMATIC SIDE**

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 need to be cut down. They are NOT His trees in the first place. His trees bare fruit after three years.

Now prophetically speaking, **Matt. 24:32** "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," 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. This all relates to the judgement of the nations at the end during the fall harvest.

## **B THE PROPHETIC SIDE**

The United Nations voted to establish the Nation of Israel Nov. 29th 1947. The fig tree spoken of in this parable is prophetically connected to 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. This 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, no one can be sure, but it's certainly food for thought. Let's have a look at couple verses: **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 Adonai, "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.**"

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