

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Text: Matthew 24

³² "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Matthew 24:32-35

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PARABLES

1. It was used by the Lord Jesus
 - a) As a teaching tool
 - b) For illustration effect
2. The essential nature of the parable
 - a) They are based on observable facts
 - b) They communicated deep spiritual truths
3. The Lord used Parables
 - a) To teach the Multitudes
 - b) To teach His Disciples
4. The Parable of the Fig Tree
 - a) The Fig Tree was one of trees that symbolised Israel
 - b) When the Fig Tree becomes tender and sprouts leaves
 - c) It is common knowledge that Summer is near

4. The Application of the Parable of the Fig Tree

- a) There were general words of warning
 - i) Wars
 - ii) Earthquakes
 - iii) Pestilences
 - iv) Persecution
 - v) Tribulation
- b) There were certain things the Lord taught concerning Israel
 - i) The destruction of the Temple Matthew 24:
 - ii) The abomination of desolation Matthew 24:15
- c) When these things start to take place
 - i) Then the Lord's 2nd Coming is very near
 - ii) "At the doors!" Matthew 24:33

THE STRENGTH OF THIS WORD OF THE LORD JESUS

1. This generation will not pass away

- a) The word "generation" may be used to refer a short period of time
- b) One generation may be as short as 30 years

2. Common/ General Descriptions

- a) The Greatest Generation: 1901-1927.
- b) The Silent Generation: Born approx. 1928-1945.
- c) Baby Boomers: Born approx. 1946-1964.
- d) Generation X: Born approx. 1965-1980.
- e) Millennials (Generation Y): Born approx. 1981-1996.

f) Generation Z: Born approx. 1997-2012.

g) Generation Alpha: Born approx. 2013-2025.

3. A possible use of the word "generation"

a) It can also be described as "race"

b) Antisemitism is a hatred of Israel/ Jews

c) There are people who have called for the total destruction of Jews

4. What the Lord Jesus has promised

a) That Israel cannot be totally eliminated

b) This is based on 2 important premises

i) God's Covenant with Abraham

ii) God's New Covenant through the Lord Jesus Christ

c) The words of the Lord Jesus will not pass away

i) Even the heavens and earth will pass away

ii) But not the word of the Lord Jesus Christ