

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28*

## "The Fig Tree Generation"

Luke 21:29-38

April 21, 2024

### Passion Week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9 Jesus arrived in Bethany yesterday (Saturday), and on Sunday the crowds visit Jesus and Lazarus in Bethany, which leaders (John 12:9-10).	10 Select the <b>afficial lamb</b> (Exodus 12:3 "On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves...") Jesus cleanses the courtyard, and again, he cleanses the temple and prevented people from using the temple as a shortcut conversation with God (John 12:29-36) Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey colt (Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:7-11; John 12:12-15) Jesus visits the temple, looked around, and hears many Jews who disbelieve the Bethany for the evening	11 Jesus curses the Fig tree (John 12:13) Jesus cleanses the Temple again (John 12:13) Jesus cleanses the Temple again (John 12:13) Jesus cleanses the Temple again (John 12:13)	12 Withered Fig tree is seen again (Mark 11) Jesus teaches at the Temple grounds, which leaders of Christ's authority challenge Jesus teaches the parables to the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-36) Jesus' discourse to the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-36)	13 Jesus sends Peter and John to prepare for the Passover meal. (Note: Jesus from Galilee, northern Israel) Jesus and disciples celebrate on Friday. The Upper Room Discourse and Priestly Prayer Jesus and disciples go to Garden of Olives (Matthew 26:30-46)	14 Early am betrayal and arrest of Jesus 6 Trials of Jesus (3 Jews then 3 Roman) The Passover day Jews from Judea (southern Israel) would celebrate Passover on Friday. Jesus High Priestly Prayer Jesus and disciples go to Garden of Olives (Matthew 26:30-46)	15 Jesus' body in the tomb Day 2. Jewish Feast of Unleavened bread continues for 7 days The Passover day Jews from Judea (southern Israel) would celebrate Passover on Friday. Jesus High Priestly Prayer Jesus and disciples go to Garden of Olives (Matthew 26:30-46)	16 Jesus' body in the tomb Day 3. Jesus is resurrected Resurrection and appearances over the next 40 days to over 500 people Biblical days don't start/enc at midnight but at sunrise for and Judaea start/enc at Sunrise/Sunset For details on what happened on and Friday see the below graphic.

### Luke 21:29-38

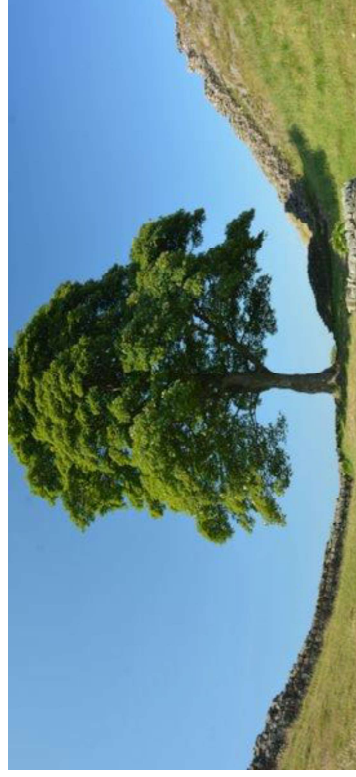
- 29 Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near.
- 31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.
- 32 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place.
- 33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
- 34 "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap;
- 35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.
- 36 "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."
- 37 Now during the day He was teaching in the temple, but at evening He would go out and spend the night on the mount that is called Olivet.
- 38 And all the people would get up early in the morning to come to Him in the temple to listen to Him.

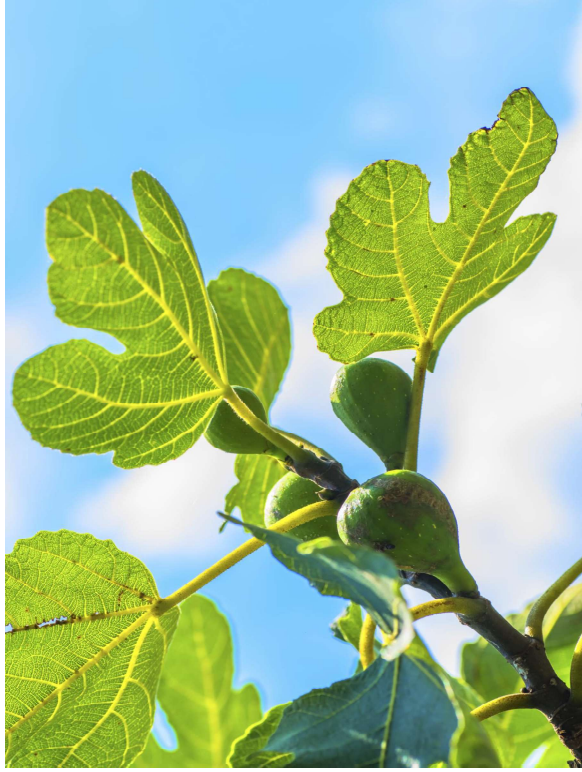
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• "Fig tree" –

- Common tree in Israel.
- Used by Adam and Eve for coverings.
- Also used by Jesus as illustration.
- Loses its leaves in the Fall.
- Sprouts new leaves in late April – early May.
- Here Jesus uses its new leaves as a sign that a coming season will soon be here.





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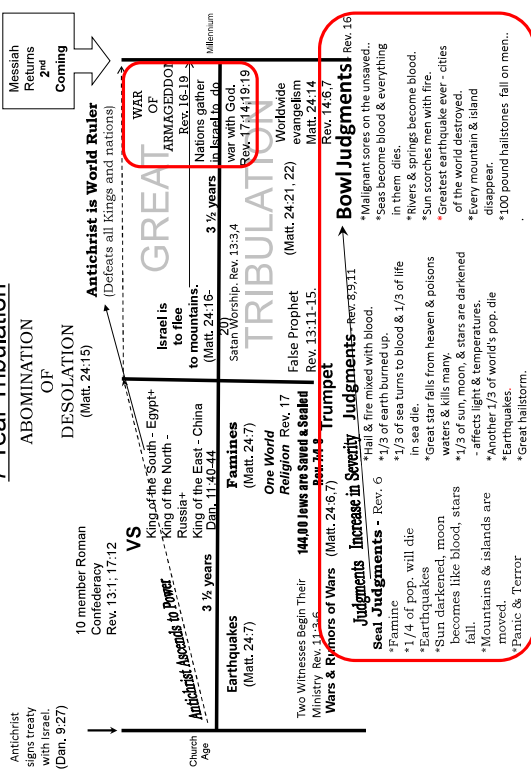
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- Jesus now applies this illustration to what He has been teaching – the signs of the 7-year Tribulation.
- By observing the signs (new leaves of Spring), Jesus says, you know the kingdom of God is near (Summer).
- The generation that sees these signs taking place, will not pass off the scene until all signs are done and completed and the Kingdom of God is about to appear.
- This verse presents an interpretive problem for some who see "this generation" as the one living in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.
- Preterists, Postmillennialists, and Amillennialists believe therefore:
  1. All of the signs occurred in the first century around 66-70 AD.

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- Preterists, Postmillennialists, and Amillennialists believe therefore:
    1. All of the signs occurred in the first century around 66-70 AD.
    2. Nero was the Beast, the Sanhedrin was the Antichrist, and the Judaizers were the false prophet.
    3. Christ returned in 70 AD.
    4. We are now in the Millennium.
    5. What is hard to explain, they spiritualize the text and not take it literal.
  - God's Word will remain throughout eternity. Heaven and earth are temporary. Therefore it is guaranteed that this generation will not pass away.

### 7 Year Tribulation



"Millions of graves are dug every year, but it is inspiring to think that one generation of Christians will cheat the undertaker."

- J. C. Pollock

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- Therefore Jesus says, "be on guard", stay awake.
- Don't be occupied with all of the "stuff" of this life.
- "dissipation" – wasting your life, your resources. Squandering what you have. Self-indulgence. Lack of moderation.
- "drunkenness" – lack of self-control, letting something else control you, excess, foolishness.
- "worries of life" – pre-occupied with this world and its demands.

### Heb 12:1

1 let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

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- You don't want to suddenly find yourself trapped and unprepared.
- No one will be spared on earth from the Tribulation. It will be global.
- Once you know the treaty is signed, start preparing.

"A short life should be wisely spent. We have not enough time at our disposal to justify us in misspending a single quarter of an hour. Neither are we sure of enough life to justify us in procrastinating for a moment."

- Spurgeon

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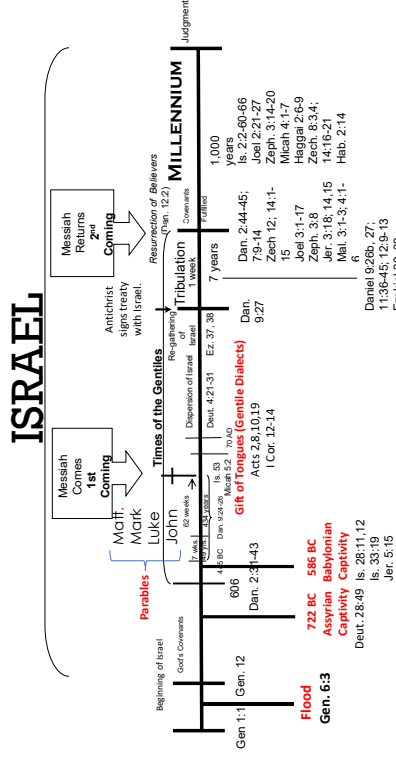
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### Old Testament View of Future Prophetic Events



1 Peter 1:10-12  
 10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,  
 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.  
 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.

**36 "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."**

- Again, alertness is so important.
- Prayer will be vital for those believers in the Tribulation:

**2 reasons:**

1. Strength to escape.
2. Strength to stand before the Lord Jesus.

**1 John 2:28**

28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

**Jude 24**

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

"He who loves the coming of the Lord is not he who affirms it is far off, nor is it he who says it is near. It is he who, whether it be far or near, awaits it with sincere faith, steadfast hope and fervent love."

- Augustine

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- Jesus continued His ministry to the end.
- During the day: teaching the Word.
- At night: Jesus got away from it all.
- Jesus needed His rest to teach all day long in the temple. It would be physically draining.

**Application**

1. God always takes care of His own.
2. We too are to "be on guard," "stay alert," "don't get weighed down." We always live knowing it could be today.
3. How is your prayer life? Do you pray that you will have strength to get through the trials of this life? Do you pray for future strength to stand before Jesus Christ?