# Matthew 24

**32Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**

**35Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**

Jesus is using the example of a fig tree in the natural to explain a spiritual lesson and application. When you see the leaves start to show, you know that the transition from Spring to Summer is coming. Likewise, just like the leaves appearing, when you see “all these things” we should know that the end is approaching. This generation he is speaking to will see this come to pass.

Question – what are all these things that are coming their way?

**And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**

The disciples want to show Jesus the splendor of the temple. They are proud of this. Jesus’ response is everything you see here will be thrown down and destroyed. Not one stone will be left on another. This is a bold prediction or prophesy. What a sobering comment from our Lord. The buildings down here which you are so proud of, will not survive or last.

**3And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**

Jesus is sitting upon the Mount of Olives which interestingly enough is where his second coming will take place. Here the disciples ask him when the temple will be destroyed. The way they ask the question, they must believe that:

* The temple will be destroyed
* This event must be connected to the end of the world
* Jesus’ will return or come and this arrival is associated with the end; they want to know the signs….perhaps so they can be aware and prepare.

David Jeremiah in his studies identifies four signs of the end times from scripture. See if you can identify them in this passage. He identifies:

* Sign of Deception
* Disputes among nations
* Signs of devastation
* Sign of deliverance into tribulation – Christianity under attack

**4And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

Jesus’ answer to them is to be careful that no one deceives or leads them astray. If he is telling them this, then we can certainly expect that deceivers are still in our future. We still need to be careful not to be deceived.

It is a certainty that not just a few, but many will come and say they are the answer, the savior, the source of salvation. Such a declaration shows there will come many who say they are Christ and are not.

Where are they and what do they look like in history and today?

Jesus lists the beginning of sorrows and signs for the beginning which include:

* Wars, and talk about wars……check
* Nations against nations…..check
* Famines…..check
* Pestilences….check
* Various earthquakes….check

Sorrows = birth pangs. So, we are not to flip out when we see the beginnings. Like labor pains, they start out small but become more frequent as you get closer to delivery (DG).

See David Jeremiah and Rev 2:10.

Famine – Rev 6:5-6; Pestilence – Rev 6:7-8

Historical Aspects – Roman soldiers crushed a Jewish rebellion and levelled the temple in 70 AD. So, what Jesus foretold came true.

**9Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

This appears to have a present and future application. The disciples would indeed suffer afflictions for his name’s sake. Again though, these are just signs but not the end yet. Many false prophets will pop up, when they do, it is a sign.

**13But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**

We are getting a scouting report to stay encouraged and continue to trust and wait on God because our salvation is sure if we do. Don’t stop believing in the truth.

The gospel will be preached to everyone. Then the end will follow. See Revelation 14:6-7.

**15When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:). 16Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

See Daniel 9:24 – in Hebrew, the original word means a period of seven; this can be days or years. In this instance, Daniel is referring to years. Additionally, these years are 360 days and not 365 days. This is consistent with the Bible. David Jeremiah points out that in Revelation 11:3 and 12:6, John counts a 3.5 year period as 1,260 days, which indicates a 360 day year.

Daniel 9:25 – 70 weeks begins with a decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. Scholars have dated this as March 14 445 BC with Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:1). Jesus appears as a prince and ruler during his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zech 9:9, Psalm 118:26), starting from March 14, 445 BC, we can calculate the date of his entry to be April 6, 32 AD.

Daniel 9:26 – five days after Jesus rode into Jerusalem, Jews called for His execution. This fulfills prophesy (Isaiah 53:1-12, Danieli 9:26). They knew about the suffering servant but didn’t realize the servant and Messiah was the same. They were looking for the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9-10) and not the other guy in Isaiah 53:1 and John 1:11. This marks the beginning of a gap until the tribulation.

Daniel 9:27 – at the Rapture the final week of 7 years begins. There will be a peace treaty with Israel and this world prince, but after 3.5 years, the treaty will be broken and the sacrificial system will once again end and a reign of terror begins. See Matt 24:21, Rev 4.

Daniel 11:31

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Daniel 12:11

While much of this was fulfilled in part in 70 AD; when looking at the feasts, I understand that God continues to practice and rehearse throughout history to give a us an idea that the actual or complete fulfillment is pending.

**23Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25Behold, I have told you before. 26Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. 27For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

People will look for relief and be deceived into following after false prophets. The coming of Christ will not be as expected.

**28For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. 29Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:**

Scriptures related to these events include Joel 2:10, Revelation 6:12-14, Isaiah 34:4.

**30And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

Revelation 19:11

**32Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**

Using the fig tree and the growing cycle as a sign or example. This could easily point to the cycle and timing of the feasts. When leaves appear in spring, then summer is close behind to follow. These things must happen in the gap between summer and fall seasons.

**35Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 36But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 37But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

One reason why prophecy may seem vague or imprecise is because God wants every age to have reasons to be ready for Jesus’ return. We should not think of Jesus’ return as an event far off on a time line, but something we have been running parallel with since the day of Pentecost.

**Parable of the Wise Servant in Household**

**42Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.**

**44Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**

**45Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.**

**48But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**