

## #1259 Israel as the Fig Tree – The Parable of the Fig Tree

We are now progressing from America as Media-Persia to Israel as the Fig Tree. We will be returning to America as Media-Persia in a series titled America as Media-Persia, II, where we will discuss America in its role as Media-Persia later in its history.

On the **Sunday** before the crucifixion, Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly (Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44). He is greeted by a great multitude with palms in their hands.



**Monday** – Jesus curses the barren fig tree

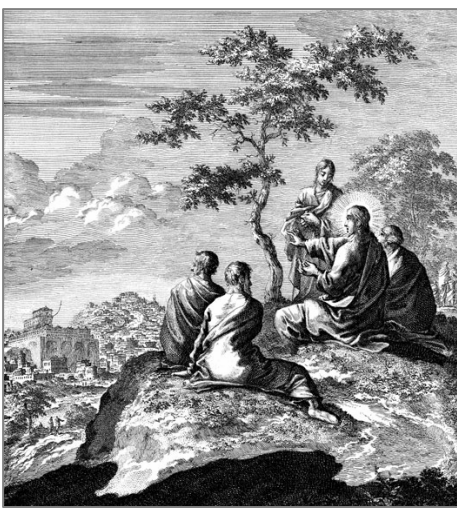
On the **Monday** before the crucifixion, Jesus curses a barren fig tree (Matthew 21:18-19; Mark 11:12-14) and cleanses the temple (for the second time, Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-46).

On the **Tuesday** before the crucifixion, the disciples pass by the cursed fig tree and see that it has already died (Matthew 21:20-22; Mark 11:20-24). On that day as well was what is known as the Olivet discourse. Jesus had departed from the temple and gone to the Mount of Olives. The disciples then asked



**Tuesday** – The disciples pass by the cursed fig tree and see that it has already died

him about the sign of his coming, and of the end of the world. As a part of the extensive answer given by Jesus, he spoke of **the parable of the fig tree**.



**Tuesday** – Jesus speaks of the parable of the fig tree in the Olivet discourse

**Matthew 24:32-33 (KJV) Now learn A PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE:** *When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:*

*33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. {it: or, he}*



**Mark 13:28-29 (KJV) Now learn A PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE:** *When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:*

*29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.*

***Luke 21:29-31 (KJV) And HE SPAKE TO THEM A PARABLE; BEHOLD THE FIG TREE, and all the trees;*** [Note: Thus Luke differs from what is seen in Matthew and Mark because it also adds . . . *and all the trees.*]

*30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.*

*31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.*

**Key Understanding: *The parable of the fig tree.*** There is debate among theologians whether a fig tree is strongly a symbol of Israel and thus whether the parable of the fig tree (Matthew 24:32-33; Mark 13:28-29; Luke 21:29-31) referred to by Jesus Christ in the Olivet discourse is a reference to the May 14-15, 1948, birth of the nation of Israel. Many of those who study prophecy deeply believe that the parable of the fig tree is indeed a reference to the event of the May 14-15, 1948, birth of Israel. Let's examine it.

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