

#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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