

#1260 Israel as the Fig Tree – Jeremiah 24: The Two Baskets of Figs

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}



To begin to understand whether or not the May 14-15, 1948, re-establishment of Israel might be the fig tree referred to in **the parable of the fig tree** in the Olivet discourse in Matthew 24:32-33, let's look at Jeremiah 24, which is about the sign and story of two baskets of figs relating to the Babylonian captivity.

Jeremiah 24:1-10 (KJV) The LORD shewed me, and, behold, TWO BASKETS OF FIGS were set before the temple of the LORD, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon. [NIV . . . After Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and the officials, the craftsmen and the artisans of Judah were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the LORD showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the LORD.]

2 ONE BASKET HAD VERY GOOD FIGS, even like the figs that are first ripe: and THE OTHER BASKET HAD VERY NAUGHTY FIGS, which could not be eaten, they were so bad. {they...: Heb. for badness}

3 Then said the LORD unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, FIGS; THE GOOD FIGS, very good; and THE EVIL [FIGS], very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil.

4 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

5 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these GOOD FIGS, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. {them...: Heb. the captivity}

6 For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. [Only partially fulfilled through the restoration from Babylon, to be completely fulfilled upon the return of the Lord.]

7 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be



their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

*8 And as **THE EVIL FIGS**, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the LORD, So will I give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem, that remain in this land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt:*

9 And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them. {to be removed: Heb. for removing, or, vexation}

10 And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers.



Key Understanding: *The two baskets of figs.* The story of the two baskets of figs in Jeremiah 24 is connected to the themes of the Jews being taken from their land and brought back into their land. Therefore, there is scriptural precedence not only for (i) figs symbolizing the people of Judah, but also for (ii) the story surrounding the figs to be connected to the themes of the Jews being dispersed from or re-gathered to Israel. Therefore, it is reasonable to believe that

the parable of the fig tree in Matthew 24:32-33 is related to the idea of the re-establishment of Israel and the return of the Jews to that re-established Israel.

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