

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MORNING BIBLE CLASS**  
**JANUARY 6, 2021**  
**MATTHEW 24:32-44**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Addressing the question related to the coming fall of Jerusalem, Jesus answers in four parts.
  - a) **PREDICTION:** There are some things that will precede the judgment. (Matt. 24.4-14)
  - b) **PLEA:** Jesus pleads with His disciples to flee the city. (Matt. 24.15-26)
  - c) **PROMISE:** It will be swift, and His people will be protected. (Matt. 25.27-31)
  - d) **PARABLE:** Watch the signs to know that the day of judgment is near. (Matt. 25.32-35)
2. Before Jesus transitions into the final day of judgment, He teaches the parable of the fig tree.

**I. THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE**

- A. **THE SETTING:** What was going on in the context that moved Jesus to teach this parable?
  1. Premillennialism teaches that there will be a series of events that will precede the final day of judgment. But is the reign of Christ future? (Matt. 16.18,19; 28.18)
  2. The context begins in Matthew 21 with Jesus' triumphant entry. From that point, Jesus found Himself in conflict with the Jewish rulers. (Matt. 21.23,34; 22.15; 23.13,34-36)
  3. In that context, Jesus predicts the fall of Jerusalem. (Matt. 24.1-3)
- B. **THE STORY:** What are the details of the parable that Jesus was teaching?
  1. **MATTHEW 24.32:** *"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near."*
  2. Fig trees produce fruit three times a year. The best figs are ripe and ready to be eaten just before summer. (Matt. 21.18,19; Jer. 24.2; Isa. 28.4)
- C. **THE SIGNIFICANCE:** What was the lesson that Jesus was teaching from this fig tree?
  1. **MATTHEW 24.33:** *"So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!"*
  2. Just as the leaves of the fig tree indicate that summer is near, so all the signs indicate that the fall of Jerusalem is near. Notice, *"all these things."* Not some of them.
  3. **MATTHEW 24.34,35:** *"Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place."* What is "this generation?" (Matt. 23.36; 16.28)

**II. THE FINAL DAY OF JUDGMENT**

- A. **MATTHEW 24.36:** *"But of that day and hour no one knows..."*
  1. *"But"* is a statement of contrast. There is a shift in verse 36 as Jesus transitions from the fall of Jerusalem to the final day of Judgment.
  2. Again, the context indicates the meaning of the immediate text.
    - a) In Matthew 21-23, we read about condemnation of the Jewish leaders.
    - b) In Matthew 25, we read about the final day of Judgment.
- B. The final day of Judgment will come unexpectedly.
  1. The signs were to indicate that the fall of Jerusalem is near. (Matt. 24.6,8,14,32-35)
  2. In contrast, the final day of Judgment will be without any signs.
    - a) **MATTHEW 24.39:** *"and did not know until the flood came"*
    - b) **MATTHEW 24.42:** *"you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."*
    - c) **MATTHEW 24:44:** *"for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*
  3. Therefore, we are to be watch and be ready. (Matt. 24.42,44)