Olivet Discourse—Part 7
"The Parable of the Fig Tree"
Matthew 24:32-35

I. **Jesus' P_____ (v. 32)**
   a. This is not a complicated Parable or an Allegory

   b. Parables almost always have One Main Meaning

   c. Fig Trees were very common in Ancient Israel, both as commercial produce and at private homes

   d. God often used them in the Old & New Testaments as Illustrations (cf. Judges 9:10–11; Jer. 24:1–10; Song of Solomon 2:13; Isa. 28:4; 34:4; Hosea 9:10; Joel 1:4–7; Nahum 3:12; Matt. 7:16; 21:18-21; Mark 11:13, 20-21; 13:28; Luke 13:6–9; James 3:12; Rev. 6:13)

   e. It was common knowledge that when sap began to flow back into a Fig Tree's branches making them tender and producing new leaves; it meant that Spring was here and Summer was near.

   f. ***learn*** = ***manthanō*** (**μανθάνω**) = "come to realize, come to learn, implying reflection on the information" (cf. Phil. 4:11; 2 Peter 4:14, 17-18)
      i. Jesus wants Believers to learn this truth so well and deeply that it changes how they live their lives!

II. **Jesus' P_____ (v. 33-34)**
   a. Some people interpret this parable Allegorically, with Israel being the Fig Tree and the sap returning to the branches being the nation of Israel returning to the Promised Land in 1948.

   b. But the meaning is much simpler and plain: when you see the signs of the Day of the Lord/Tribulation that Jesus had just listed, know that He is Coming Soon.
      i. Be Ready for Jesus' Return!

   c. Unlike the remaining Parables and Analogies this one looks back at the prophecies as proof that the Tribulation Saints can know that Jesus ***is near, right at the door***. (cf. Matt. 24:36ff)

   d. I believe that ***this generation*** refers to the Tribulation Saints who will witness all of these signs, instead of the one that was with Jesus and witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem.
      i. Otherwise, you have to spiritualize much of what Jesus had just prophesized, including the Book of Revelation.
      ii. And most importantly, Jesus did NOT come back, which if the signs were for the destruction of Jerusalem, they don't serve as a very good indicator of His return.

III. **Jesus' P_____ (v. 35)**
   a. The Apostle Peter predicts the destruction of the current heaven and earth with "a roar" and with "intense heat" (cf. 2 Peter 3:10-14; Isa. 2:10–21; 13:6–22; 24:18–20; 34:4; Joel 1, 2; Amos 5; Obed. 15; Zech. 14; Mal. 4; 2 Thess. 1:7; 2:2; Rev 20:1–21:1)

   b. So, Jesus is saying that His words are more guaranteed and eternal than the current heavens and earth!