

**Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**  
**The Destruction of Jerusalem and The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ, Part 6**

Last times...after Jesus leaves the Temple for the last time  
(Matt 24:1-3, Mark 13:1-4, Luke 21:5-7),  
a very important prophesy regarding the days before He returns to earth (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming)

First, a broad picture of “the beginning of sorrows”  
(Matt 24:4-8, Mark 13:5-8, Luke 21:8-11a),

Second, zoomed in on “The Tribulation” (Matt 24:9-14, Mark 13:9-13, Luke 21:11b-19),  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Half of Jacob’s Trouble

Third, “Abomination of Desolation” (Matt 24:15-20, Mark 13:14-18, Luke 21:20-21),  
the mid-point of Jacob’s Trouble/70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel  
(whoso reads, let him understand)

Fourth, “Great Tribulation” (Matt 24:21-31, Mark 13:19-27, Luke 21:22-28)  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Jacob’s Trouble

This time...Jesus “pans out” from His close-up of the last days before His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and gets more “big picture” in His lengthy response to His disciples 2 questions

The Parable of the Fig Tree, “this generation”, and “My words”  
Jesus speaks of

- that which is near at hand
- that which will never pass away

We will be in Luke 21, Mark 13, and Matt 24

**Luke 21:29-33**

v29-31 fig tree...shoot forth...nigh at hand:

In v8-27, Jesus gave us a “close-up” view of the days before His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

- “the beginning of sorrows” set in motion by Is 11:11-12
- the time slices of Jacob’s Trouble
  - “Tribulation”
  - “Abomination of Desolation”
  - “Great Tribulation”

In v28, Jesus “panned out” from the close-up view with a word of comfort

<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">Is 61:1-2a</span>	at beginning of His ministry in Luke 4:19-20
<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">Is 61:2b-3</span>	now, this day, at the end of His ministry

Staying with the Big Picture, Jesus teaches a Parable of the Fig Tree

Behold...see and understand/know

the...singular (translated into English as “the” or “he” or “her” or “it”)

fig tree...Israel

Hosea 9:10a I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw  
your fathers as the first ripe in the fig tree at her first  
time:

Joel 1:6-7 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and  
without number, whose teeth *are* the teeth of a lion,  
and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. He hath  
laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath  
made it clean bare, and cast *it* away

Is 61:3 trees of righteousness planted by the Lord

all the trees...the nations

God’s 2<sup>nd</sup> sign of judgment in Is 11 is to Israel and the nations

When they now...already

Context: springtime, Passover being just a few days away

shoot forth...germinate, sprout leaves

ye see...look

and know...understand

summer is now nigh at hand...summer is near, just around the corner

So likewise...in the same manner as v29-30

when ye see...behold, see and understand

these things...v8-27

come to pass...happen

know ye...perceive, understand

the kingdom of God...the return to earth of The King to

- destroy the kingdoms of the world
- set up His kingdom on earth

is nigh at hand...near

The Parable of the Fig Tree is an answer to the disciples' question in v7

Do we see Israel re-born as a nation?

Do we see "the beginning of sorrows" come to pass?

Yes, so we know these are near

- our redemption (v28)
- Jacob's Trouble followed by the kingdom of God (v31)

With that in mind, Jesus tells His disciples of 2 things that will never pass away

v32 This generation:

The 1<sup>st</sup> thing that will never pass away, even at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

Verily I say unto you...The Lord speaking directly vs "Thus saith the Lord"

this...a single entity comprised of plural "the" (v29)

ie all the "he"s and "her"s together in one entity

generation..."period of time" or "nation" (as determined by context)

a. period of time: What is the length of a generation?

The Bible does not anywhere define a generation as a specific number of years

Scholars differ in how many years is a generation

b. nation: a specific people

In the context of

- the entire "Q&A"
- the immediate teaching (parable of the fig tree)

we should interpret "generation" as a nation vs a period of time?

What nation?

Israel...the fig tree

i.e "fig tree" and "this generation" are the same

shall not...a double negative, strengthening the denial

ie "not at all", "by no means"

pass away...Israel will in no way perish

- during the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple
- during the Diaspora
- during the "times of the Gentiles" (v24)
- during Jacob's Trouble
  - unmitigated wrath of Satan
  - unmitigated wrath of God

till all be fulfilled...everything that God foretold (said would happen) happens just as He foretold

- v8-27
- the end of the “times of the Gentiles”  
(all unfulfilled prophecies from the previous study)
- the 1000 reign of King Jesus Christ in Jerusalem from the throne of David in the Temple He will build
- the GWT
- new heavens and new earth in the eternal state

v33 Heaven and earth...My words:  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing that will never pass away

Heaven...either “the place of God’s abode” or “the sky/atmosphere” of our planet and outer space (abode of sun, moon, and stars), as determined by context

2 Peter 3:1-10

Rev 21:1 I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea

Therefore, the sky/atmosphere of planet earth plus outer space

earth...ground, the earth beneath our feet

shall pass away...perish

but My words...the words of the Word of God

shall not pass away...as in v32, a double negative, strengthening the denial

The Word of God is more enduring than the creation  
This universe has an appointed end, the Word of God is eternal

On earth, earthquakes are unsettling  
In heaven (God’s abode), the Word of God is settled (Ps 119:89),  
thereby settling the believers on earth (1 Peter 5:10)

Now let’s pick up additional information in Mark 13

## **Mark 13:28-32**

v28-29 Now learn a parable:

Remember, Jesus has “panned out” from the close-up of Jacob’s Trouble and is now looking at the Big Picture

Now learn...understand

a parable...a spiritual truth understood if believed but not understood if not believed

of the fig tree...Israel

when her branch is yet tender...now/already soft (germination has begun)

and putteth forth leaves...sprouts leaves

know that summer is near...by experience since it happens every spring and summer

in like manner...just like the fig tree sprouting leaves in spring

when ye shall see...behold, see and understand

these things come to pass...v5-27, the days before His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

know...understand

that it...v4, His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

is nigh, at the doors...is near, “knocking at the door”

With the nearness of Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming in mind, 2 things will not pass away

v30-31 this generation...my words:

1. This generation

this...a single entity comprised of plural “he”s and “her”s  
generation...a nation i.e. Israel, the fig tree

shall not pass...double negative, strengthening the denial  
pass...perish

until all these things...v5-27

be done...come into being

2. My words

This universe is going to burn up in fervent heat and cease to exist  
But The Word of God will NEVER cease to exist,  
the Word of God is eternal and unchanging

v32 that day and hour...knoweth no:

Jesus gives a specific answer to the disciples' question in v4  
(not recorded in Luke)

that day and hour...the specific day and hour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ

No man knows...no man/nobody knows

Who is excluded from "no man"?

Therefore, every date setter is a false prophet/teacher, speaking  
feigned words to make merchandise of you (2 Peter 2:1-3)

No angel residing in God's abode knows; they are looking into the  
salvation of man accomplished by the gospel (suffering and glory  
of Christ, 1 Peter 1:10-12 and Eph 3:10)

The Son of Man does not know; how is that possible?

A mystery

1. The Hebrew wedding is very instructive (John 14:1-3)

2. Two things that might seem to be in conflict can both be true.

Just as the Bible teaches that God chooses, the Bible also  
teaches that man must choose. The two truths seem  
to be in conflict but both are true, so they are not in  
conflict.

In the same way, Jesus is both 100% God and 100% Man.  
God cannot be tempted but Jesus (the Son of Man) was  
tempted.

God is wisdom and Jesus (the Son of Man) grew in wisdom  
(Luke 2:52, 1 Cor 1:30).

God (John 10:30) is all-knowing but Jesus (Son of Man)  
does/did not know the specific time He would be  
sent to collect His Bride.

Jesus being 100% God seems to be in conflict with Jesus  
being 100% Man, but both are true, so they are not  
in conflict.

It is a mystery (eternal truth being revealed in time) that  
requires faith

ONLY the Father knows

Now let's get more information from Matt 24

## Matt 24:32-41

v32-33 parable of the fig tree, when his branch:

Regarding the branch of the fig tree, the translators translated the same Greek word

- “her” in Mark
- “his in Matt”

Why?

idk

Is the translation in error or is it inspired by God?

idk

see all these things...v4-31

know that it...the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ...is near

v34-35 This generation:

When saying “generation”, Jesus never spoke in terms of a specific period of time”, rather always spoke in terms of a people

And to describe those people, He used these adjectives:

- adulterous
- wicked
- faithless
- perverse
- sinful
- evil
- “men of this...” (Luke 11:31)

He also spoke of “generation” (“offspring”, “fruit”)

Regarding the Pharisees, generation/offspring/fruit of vipers

Regarding believers, a chosen generation/fruit (1 Peter 2:9)

Jesus never defined the length of a generation/period of time

So how long is a generation in the Bible?

40 years?

Remember the errors of 1988 (1948 + 40)...

70 years?

1948 + 70 = 2018...

100 years?

Any such definition of a generation as a number of years is mere speculation

Who is “this generation?”

The fig tree

Israel (Rom 2:28-29, Rom 9:6, the believing remnant)

Gal 3:7                      they which are of faith are the children of Abraham

Is 66:8-24

v8, v 19, v20, v22

Jer 31:31-37

Jer 33:19-26      with      2 Sam 7:12-13

My words:

All of Jesus’ words, including those in v34 about “this generation”,  
are certain and eternal

We are holding something that

- came from eternity (Gal 3:8 says “the Scripture, foreseeing...”)
- will outlast the very world in which we are living

v36      that day and hour:

But, specifically regarding the disciples’ question in v3,  
nobody knows, no created being knows!  
Only God the Father knows His precise and perfect time

But...some “hints” regarding the season

v37-39      as the days of Noah:

The days before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ will be just like the days of Noah

- business as usual...life is normal...for the inhabitants of the world
- eating and drinking, couples marrying and parents giving their children in marriages
- people oblivious to and unconcerned about what God sees or says

until...the day of judgment

In Noah’s day,

- Noah found grace thru faith...Gen 6:8 with Heb 11:7
- a long period of preparation and warning (120 years) and then judgment, just as had been forewarned (Gen 7:1-16)
  - righteousness (faith, obedience)
  - in this generation...people
  - windows of heaven were opened
- Noah and his family were told to get on the Ark, the only way of escape from worldwide judgment
- God closed the door
- sudden, unexpected, cataclysmic wrath of God



- the oblivious, not-understanding inhabitants of the world were taken away, removed, destroyed...it was too late for them to “get on the Ark” and escape the wrath of God

So shall it be when Jesus Christ returns to earth

Jesus is the Ark...John 14:6

Only those “in Christ” will escape God’s judgment

Believers are Eph 2:8-9

A closed door

[Rev 3:7-10](#)

[Rev 4:1](#) and subsequently closed until re-opened in [Rev 19:11](#)

Sudden destruction...worldwide judgment of God

[1 Thes 5:1-3](#)

Rev 6-18

The inhabitants of the world are not paying attention to God’s warning...and will be swept away by God’s judgment

Was The Flood real?

Absolutely, according to none other than Jesus Christ (v35)!

v40-41 two be in the field...two at the mill:

Then, on the specific day the Father only knows, when Jesus Christ return to earth,

Two (on earth vs in heaven) will be

- in the field (men)
- grinding at the mill (women)

One shall be taken...”receive”, like the inhabitants of the world in v39

One shall be left...let alone, saved from the judgment of God (v13)

These verses DO NOT speak of the Rapture of the Church

There are NO signs before the Rapture

Being “taken” is not good, it is being taken in judgment!

This is not the first time the disciples have heard this from Jesus

[Luke 17:22-37](#)

## Application

Believer

Matt 24:15

Matt 24:25

The scoffers you know are fulfillments of God's prophetic Word

Fear not! God is in absolute control and He has foretold us what He is going to do.

2 Peter 2:9     The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished

Can you see "the fig tree sprouting leaves"?!

We live in days like the days of Noah and the days of Lot

We are surrounded by inhabitants of the world

(unbelievers vs believers "in Christ") who are

- living their lives like nothing is wrong
- oblivious to and unconcerned about
  - what God sees...abominations in the behaviors of people and rebellion against His Authority
  - what God says...including His warning of impending judgment
  - that God is (Heb 11:6)
- scoffers and mockers (Gal 6:7a)

Sudden destruction approaches

We must call them to "get on the Ark" to escape the worldwide judgment before God closes the door!

Unbeliever

The things of God are spiritual and are a revelation (1 Cor 2:10-16)

Believe...and see/understand

Before it is too late and you are taken away...destroyed

God loves you and is longsuffering

He delights in mercy

Accept His gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ!