

**WHAT TIME IS IT?
MARK 13:28-31 / MAY 10, 2017 / WED**

I. WHAT IS THE LESSON JESUS TEACHES ABOUT WHEN HE WILL RETURN?

- A. Jesus told his disciples a lesson involving a fig tree.
1. The Fig Tree is used often in the O.T. as an analogy.
 2. Jesus used it to teach his disciples about the ineffectiveness of Judaism when he cursed a fig tree--Mark 11:13.
 3. Jesus also used it in a parable--Luke 13:6.
 4. James used it in James 3:13.
 5. John used it in Revelation 6:13.
- B. Now Jesus uses the fig tree to tell us when to know he is Coming Again.
1. Fig trees are not "evergreens" so when they develop leaves it's a sign that summer is approaching--13:28.
 2. Jesus' point is that when you see the cosmic signs of Mark 13:24-25 (Leaves of the fig tree) it means the Second Coming is approaching--13:29.
 3. What is near?--**v.29 "you know it is near"** . "It" can also be translated as "he". So it means Jesus' return is near.

II. WHAT TIME IS IT?

- A. Jesus emphasizes the truth of what he is about to tell the disciples--13:30a.
1. This phrase is a translation of the Greek word "Amen".
 2. It means "firm", "trustworthy", "surely" or "true".
 3. Amen is also one of Jesus' names--2 Cor. 1:20.
- B. What generation is Jesus referring to in 13:30b?
1. Is it the present generation that many of the disciples will live to see the destruction of the Temple?
 2. Is it the present generation that many disciples will live to see the Second Coming of Christ?
 3. Is it the Nation of Israel because the word "generation" can also be translated as "race" or "nation"?

4. Is it the last generation alive before Jesus returns?
- C. How sure can we be of Jesus' prophecy or prediction of when he is coming ?
1. Jesus illustrated the truth of what he revealed by reminding the disciples that someday the universe will be destroyed--13:31a. 2 Peter 3:7, 10, 12 and Reve. 21:1.
 2. Jesus further illustrates the truth of his statements concerning his Second Coming by reminding his disciples they can have confidence in God's Word and so can we--13:31b.