

PARABLE OF FIG TREE

INTRODUCTION:

The Olivet Discourse (OD) has been divided into the following four studies.

- 13:1-8 – Sign of the 5th Cycle
- 13:9-23 – Sign of Abomination of Desolation
- 13:24-27 – Sign of Second Coming
- 13:28-37 – Spiritual lessons on the Second Coming

Mark concluded the OD with two parabolic spiritual lessons. Matthew concluded with five parables and Luke with one; however, the parable of the Fig Tree is recorded by all three Gospels.

Mark recorded the parable of the fig Tree and the parable of the Porter. These parables emphasize the alertness and timing associated with the signs of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed time* is.” (13:33)

The doctrinal principle of these two parables is for believers to become redeemers of their time on earth.

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time (redeeming the time/ exagorazo ton kairos), because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Eph.5: 15-17)

<p style="text-align: center;">This lesson will study 8 aspects of the parable of the Fig Tree of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.</p>

1. **Biblical parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning or a pertinent doctrine. What is the earthly and heavenly meaning of the parable of the Fig Tree?**

Earthly story: “*When (time) its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know (ginosko) that **summer is near.***” (13:28)

Heavenly meaning: “*Even so, you too, when (time) you see these things happening, **recognize (ginosko) that He is near, right at the door (Second Coming).***” (13:29)

2. Jesus began this parable with a command to learn the doctrinal meaning of the parable of the Fig Tree.

“Now learn (manthano/ a.a.impv) the parable of the fig tree.” (13:28)

There are six homiletical points to learn from the lesson text of the parable of the Fig Tree.

- Summer (13:28) – know (ginosko/ experiential knowledge) it is near.
- Second Coming (13:29) – know (ginosko) He is near
- Seed (13:30) – not pass away until Second Coming
- Scriptures (13:31) – not pass away but heaven and earth will
- Schedule (13:32) – do not know (oida/ absolute knowledge) day or hour of Second Coming
- Summation (13:33) – do not know (oida) when the appointed time is.

3. Jesus had earlier warned His disciples that Israel was a withered fig tree (Mark 11:12-14, 20-26).

Israel is identified in Scriptures as a fig tree (Hos.9:10; Nah.3:12).

First century Israel had failed as a divine agency and as a result they would suffer the 5th cycle of divine discipline (13:1-8).

4. However this parable is of a healthy fig tree that is associated with the Second Coming (13:28-29).

They will succeed as a divine agency during the last 7 years of the Jewish Age called the Tribulation.

5. Jesus made a big doctrinal point regarding the role of the Jewish race in human history according to the plan of God.

“Truly I say to you (big point of doctrine), *this generation (aute he genea)* will not (ouk me/ never) pass away (parechomai/ a.m.subj) until (mechris+gen of time) all these things take place (ginomai/ a.m.subj).” (13:30)

- This generation is a reference to the generation of Jewish believers of the Tribulation.
- The Jews will not pass away from human history until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
- They will pass away from the divine plan of God after the Second Coming.

6. Jesus made a second big doctrinal point regarding the role of the word of God in the universe related to the plan of God.

“Heaven and earth will pass away (parerchomai/ f.m.ind), but My words will not pass away (ouk parerchomai/ f.m.ind).” (13:31)

- Heaven and earth will pass away.
- Words of Jesus Christ will never pass away (1 Pet.1:25).
- Words of Jesus Christ are more important than all the real estate of heaven and earth.

7. Jesus taught that we do not know the DAY or the HOUR of the Second Coming but we do know the signs that precede it (13:14-27).

“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” (13:32)

- The timing of the Second Coming is not recorded in the word of God in heaven or earth.
- No one knows the day or hour of the Second Coming – neither angels nor Son in heaven.
- Father alone knows the appointed time of the Second Coming.

8. Tribulation believers are commanded to look and be on the alert regarding the events that reveal the NEARNESS of the Second Coming.

“Even so, you too, **when you see these things happening**, recognize that He is near, right at the door.” (13:29)

These things refer back to all the signs beginning with the Abomination of Desolation (13:14-27).