

The Fig Tree Sign

Matthew 24: 32-35

August 27, 2023

Your protection from deception:

KNOW THE WORD!

The Tribulation starts with deception

**The rider on the white horse, the antichrist,
the good guy peacemaker – the deceiver!**



Verse 32

Why a Fig Tree?

The fig tree in the New Testament is a representation of the nation of Israel

Israel had been dispersed for 2000 years,
no homeland, despised by the nations

There is a miracle imbedded in their dispersion

Without a homeland, *the Jewish people kept their identity*

NO OTHER NATION in the history of the world has done that

The fig tree put forth leaves, **May 14, 1948;** the nation of Israel was re-established, *in their land!*

Verse 33 - 34

**When the fig tree sign happens,
Christ's return is near**

Hear the prophet, Isaiah, regarding this miracle:

“Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?” Isaiah 66: 8

Many prophecy enthusiasts have made predictions of when Jesus will return **(ALL WRONG!)**

Jesus tells us how we can know for sure that He is really close – HOW?

“When you see all these things, know that it is near, at the doors!”

What things?

The things He has been talking about regarding the Tribulation

The rider on the white, red, black, and pale horse, Tribulation stuff

HIS RETURN IS NEAR!!

The Tribulation is all about the Jews, *not the Church!*

The Church is taken in the *RAPTURE!*

The second coming and the Rapture are similar, *but not the same!*

Many conflate these events and they see only one event – *the Second Coming!*



RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

1. It occurs *before* the Tribulation (Lk. 21:36)
2. Christ comes *for* the Saints (I Thess. 4:13-17)
3. Christ takes the Saints to *Heaven* (Jn. 14:3)
4. Christ returns to the *clouds* (I Thess. 4:17)
5. Christ is not seen (I Cor. 15:52)
6. It is the "blessed hope" of the Church (Titus 2:13)

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

1. It occurs *after* the Tribulation (Mat. 24:29-30)
2. Christ comes *with* the Saints (Jd. 14; Rev 19:11-21)
3. Christ brings the Saints back to Earth (Zech. 14:4-5; Rev. 19:14)
4. Christ returns to the Earth (Zech. 14:4-5)
5. Every eye shall see Christ (Rev. 1:7)
6. It is the great day of his "*wrath*" (Rev. 19:15)



Verse 35

Jesus' Words are eternal

“Heaven and earth will pass away”

The postmillennial view has a real problem with what Jesus just said

These folks believe this world is all that will be

Jesus disagrees and so does Scripture

Revelation 21: 1-4

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

We are the only generation that qualifies for the second coming of Messiah:

- 1) The Jews are in their land
- 2) Humanity now has the power, with nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, to destroy all life on the planet
- 3) Jesus said if He did not return, mankind would destroy themselves – *“no flesh would be saved”*
(verse 24: 22)

4) NO OTHER GENERATION COULD THIS APPLY TO – NONE!

So . . . Ladies and Gentlemen

Know that the time is short!

There are 2 questions every human must answer:

- 1) “Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?”
Who is Jesus to you? – Matthew 16: 13**
- 2) “What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ? Pilate’s question – Matthew 27: 22**

Salvation is so great and free!!

Believe and receive the gift while you can!

There is a difference between decisional regeneration and believing/yielding regeneration

“Making a decision for Jesus Christ places the emphasis on something our Lord never trusted - (YOU) He never asks us to decide for Him, but to yield to Him, something very different.”

(Oswald Chambers)

No one can make a decision on their own:

- 1) The Father must draw – **John 6: 44**
- 2) The Spirit must convict of sin – **John 16: 8**
- 3) The Son must draw – **John 12: 32**

The human side is simply to believe and receive the free gift and yield to God (*BELIEVING REGENERATION*)


The #1 criteria for salvation in Scripture is simply to believe (97 times or so in John)

God gives you the ability to do this!!

There is an urgency today, can you sense it?

Your life will end; and in the end, what you do with Jesus means everything

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS WHO IS CALLED THE CHRIST?




**And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"
And let him who hears say, "Come!" And
let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires,
let him take the water of life freely.**

Revelation 22:17 NKJV

**For you have been called for
this purpose, since Christ
also suffered for you,
leaving you an
example for
you to follow
in His steps,**

1 Peter 2:21

Knowing-Jesus.com

A photograph of a sandy beach. In the foreground, there is a large, distinct footprint in the sand. To the left of the footprint, there is a small, colorful seashell with orange and white stripes. Above the footprint, there is a small, dark hole in the sand. The background shows the vast expanse of the beach under a bright sky. The text "Jesus is close, time is short, you can almost hear His footsteps!" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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time is short, you
can almost hear
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