

# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 8]

## OLIVET'S PROPHECIES - FULFILLED OR FUTURE? (5)

Reading: **Matthew 24:30 - 35**

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### Introduction

- Matthew 24 is the **'backbone'** of that body of teaching called **'Bible Prophecy.'**
- In the discourse, Jesus deals with the end of the Jerusalem temple and the end of this age associated with His Second Coming.
- The prophecy re: the end of the temple has been fulfilled but **NOT** the prophecy re: His Second Coming.
- [24: 30/31] Jesus speaks briefly with re: to the nature of His return.

### 1 The Parable Of The Fig Tree

- Does Jesus give us a clue/hint as to when His return will be?
- Notice his horticultural parable [vs 32].
- Jesus uses the **'fig tree'** to represent the nation of the Jews. [Jeremiah 24].

### 2 The Miracle Of The Fig Tree

- In [Matthew 21:18 - 19] Jesus curses the fig tree because it was fruitless and it died.
- The Messiah had come and the Jews had rejected Him.
- The Jewish nation was just leaves (all show) no fruit (salvation or righteousness).
- In AD70 the national fig tree of the Jews died and the Jews became homeless and scattered.

### 3 The Fig Tree Would Again Show Signs Of Life

- The fig tree would **'put forth leaves.'**
- After centuries of being homeless and Gentiles squatting in their national home, Jerusalem was liberated in December 1917.
- The Balfour Declaration paved the way for the Jews to begin to return.
- In May 1948 the Jewish national council in Tel Aviv proclaimed the re-establishment of a Jewish state to be called **'Israel.'**
- After centuries of being dead the **'fig tree'** again budded.
- They have fought and indeed are fighting wars for their continued existence.
- There are those who want to chop the fig tree down.
- The **'re-budding'** fig tree is a sign the return of Jesus is near.
- **NB. 'Put forth leaves.'** Again just leaves, no fruit.

### 4 The Fig Tree Generation

- [Vs 34] The generation that witnessed the budding of the fig tree in 1948 will not have passed away before Jesus returns.

### 5 The Kingdom Of God Is Near

- [Vs 33]. What is meant by **'IT?'**
- Consider [Mark 13:29] and [Luke 21:31]. Luke tells us **'IT'** is the Kingdom of God.
- The word **'kingdom'** is translated from Greek word **'basileia'** meaning **'the reign or the rule of God.'**
- The Kingdom of God is in us in seed form when we so organise our lives that His will is done.
- It is amongst a group of people (i.e. church) when they so arrange their lives and they can enjoy the benefits of the kingdom now.
- The kingdom will come in its fullest sense when Jesus returns.

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## Teaching Biblically • Thinking Biblically • Living Biblically

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