

The Parable of the Fig Tree

*NOTE: A fig tree loses its crop twice a year. The early crop is in late spring and the main crop is during the late summer to autumn.

Why is this parable important to know?

Well because we are told to go and learn what it means in Matt 24:32-33 and Mark 13:28-29 }
“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh (i.e untimely figs..)

Then in Mark 13:30-37 we are told what the significance of learning the parable is. These verses tell us that we need to know what season the end times are and to be prepared. To be ready is to watch.

What does it mean to “watch”?

Mark 13:30-37 “Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”

Yeshua tells us that if we watch (act as a watchman/servant) that the day of the Lord will not come upon us like a thief in the night. Being prepared by watching means making sure we are doing as instructed as servants of God.

We need to Love God and Love our neighbour as ourselves. Loving God is keeping the 10 commandments which results in receiving the holy spirit of truth in order to understand prophecy. (Matt 22:36-40, John 14:15-24)

Loving our neighbors as ourselves is to warn others of what happens by not being obedient to God’s instruction, to teach them to keep the commandments and to rebuke transgression of the commandments (Lev 19:15-18, James 2:8) so that we don’t suffer sin upon them and their blood is not on our hands (Ezk 2/3/33).

This is what it means to learn the parable of the fig tree and we will only be able to know it perfectly if we are watching as instructed. 1 Thess 5:1-2.

So if we go back to Mark 13 where it describes the tree putting out leaves to signify what season it is in (before summer), we can figure out that the season before summer would be spring i.e the first/early crop=untimely figs!

Revelation 6:12-13 describes Satan as being cast down out of heaven as untimely figs. The Greek word for untimely (G3653=olynthos) means unripe. An unripe fig that grows during the winter doesn't come to maturity so falls off in the late spring.

We also read about the 6th seal opening(end days/satan coming down) as a springtime event in Isaiah 28:1-4 "Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

² Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.

³ The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:

⁴ And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, and as the *hasty fruit before the summer*; which when he looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he eateth it up."

1 Thessalonians 5:1

"But of the times and the seasons (and the parable of the fig tree), brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."

As Yeshua told us, you only know this perfectly if you are watching (see Ezekiel 2-3).

So let's recall the parable:

"Mark 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:"

Mark 13:29

"So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

When the branch is tender and puts forth leaves (blossoms) and summer is near (i.e. it is not actually summer yet) this is obviously describing springtime. So, he's talking about the early drop of figs, not the main drop."

This is why Revelation 6 describes satan being cast out of heaven as "untimely figs"

Revelations 6:12-13

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she was shaken by a mighty wind."

The Greek word translated as untimely ('olynthos', G3653) means unripe. Check out the definition here:

"An unripe fig which grows during the winter, yet does not come to maturity but falls off in the spring"

We are told this is a springtime event.

Moreover, Isaiah 28, which also describes the 6th seal of Revelation opening also tells us it will be a springtime event.

"Hasty fruit" is the Hebrew word 'bikkurim' (H1061) and its definition is "the first-fruits of the crop" clearly pointing us to the first drop of the fig tree which is the spring.

But we didn't even have to know that because the rest of the verse leaves us without doubt as it reads "before the summer"

Before the summer is obviously spring, remember Yeshua said this happens "when summer is near".

So to be more precise, one could speculate that the scriptures point to a "late springtime" event. Which incidentally is confluent with when a literal fig tree casts forth the first figs.

So now you know the parable and what it means to watch. So now go Watch and Pray!

Supplementary verses

Isaiah 34:4 "And all the hosts of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their hosts shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." (2 Peter 3:11 quotes this).

Micah 7:1

"Woe is me! For I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desires the first ripe fruit."