

Tuesday 5-31-2022

## **CURSING THE FIG TREE BY JESUS**

When I looked at the scripture telling us to “rightly divide the word of God” I had no idea just how deep this subject would be.

My first thought was to ensure I understood which dispensation the word would fall under. From there I went to the importance of understanding the difference between the period of Law, vs the grace period we now live in.

It became important to me that we understand that the Old Testament (law) had its origin in ‘If you will do this, then God will do that’ and the present dispensation of the grace of God which teaches us that God has already completed everything on our behalf and the more we understand what He has done for us, the more we respond to that.

We love because He first loved us. We give to others because of the abundance of gifts and giving we have first received from Him/

It became important for us to understand that we always keep the horse before the cart. Never the opposite.

From this understanding, I have moved into seeing scripture as it is given directly to the Jew, and not the church. Understanding that even though all scripture is divinely inspired, written by the hand of God Himself, penned by men and is profitable for my everyday living, not all scripture is written to me. For my benefit, but not my instruction to daily living.

By dividing the scripture between the “instruction to the Jew” and written as to their history and well-being as well as their prophesy for the future, I began to see that I might be able to apply the principle in my life, but it is first and foremost written to the Jewish people.

That is where I want to camp tonight.

When we read in Matthew where Jesus encounters a fig tree with heavy foliage, yet no fruit and He ends up cursing the tree = we tend to somehow bring this into our lives and as some teachers would tell you that if there is no fruit in your lives, your life is somehow is under a curse from Jesus.

Beloved we need to divide the word accordingly.

Firstly, this parable is written in Matthew and Mark. It is not recorded in the book of John. Why you ask?

As we have said in the past, the book of John is written primarily to the Church. It mentions nothing about the tribulation, because the Saints will not be on earth during the tribulation. We will be in heaven going through what is set up for us there.

It is somehow a dead give-away that it is not recorded in the book of John, however we must investigate the scripture for its meaning before we proceed.

In God's word, He uses symbols to define the Nation of Israel.

He also uses three things to define His people Israel. The vine, the fig tree and =the Olive tree.

The vine is a symbol of Israel's SPIRITUAL privileges

The fig tree is a symbol of Israel's NATIONAL privileges

The Olive tree is a symbol of Israel's RELIGIOUS privileges

Psalm 80 – 8-11 Sea is the Mediterranean, River the Euphrates

It is planted there today and is beginning to grow

Look at Isaiah 5: 1&2

Now look at vs 4

NOW THIS IS IMPORTANT BELOVED – When God set His affection upon the small nation of Israel, set them apart as His beloved people, He had much more in mind than just blessing this people.

It was through this people that the entire world was to be blessed.

It was through this people that the entire world would see His goodness and be drawn to Him.

God became very disappointed at what Israel had become.

We are told in Ezekiel 15: 1-8 that unless there was fruit from His people, then they are nothing less than fodder, or kindling which needed to be burned.

The stem and the branches were to be burned, but the root remained.

Now look with me at Matthew 24:3

3 things – the destruction of the temple the signs of your coming and when will be the end of the age?

Jesus answers – temple destruction in some 70 years

Signs of His coming – The abomination of desolation, the sign of the son of man coming in the clouds and

The fig tree

What do we actually know about fig trees?

Well first, the fruit usually appear before the leaves appear.

Fruit will often times remain on the tree through the winter months, to where they have it available in the spring time too.

The time of the season where Jesus ran into this tree was probably April 1<sup>st</sup>

This tree (which represents Israel's national privilege) had leaves but no fruit. National privilege means that as a nation they represent something to all other nations.

OK – Matthew 21:18-19 Mark 11: 13&14 Why did Jesus curse the fig tree.

In the preceding chapter, Jesus cleansed the temple by overturning the tables set up for money changing? Why? Because the temple was to be a place of refuge for the people. A place to get away from that activity –

It was to become a house of prayer for all nations.

A place they could run from God's judgment.

The money changing in the temple was a symptom of a much larger problem

Now here is the key –

The nation of Israel was to be a beacon for the rest of the world. They had all of the privilege of being God's chosen people, yet had no fruit in their lives.

### **JESUS CURSED THE FIG TREE BECAUSE OF THEIR HYPOCRACY.**

Read **Matthew 23**

They were to be an example of what would happen to a nation who had God as their source.

The nation of Israel was to become the "city on the hill" for all nations to see. Remember the promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12 = you will be a blessing to all nations.

Jesus was alluding to their lack of blessings to all nations.