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The Parables of Jesus Christ: The Fig Tree and the Future

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE FORTY-THREE: The Fig Tree and the Future (Mt. 24:32-35; Mk. 13:28-31; Lk. 21:29-33)

SURVEY

This parable records a question and an answer:

1. The disciples' question:

"Tell us, what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?" (Mt. 24:3)

2. The Savior's answer:

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." (Mt. 24:32-34)

SIGNIFICANCE

Many hold this parable offers Scripture's most significant and clearest sign regarding Jesus' second coming, namely, the rebirth of the nation Israel.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Jesus related this parable during His Mt. Olivet Discourse which He began with a startling prediction:

"And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (Mt. 24:1-2)

- This probably no doubt referred to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman soldiers led by Titus in 70 A.D. From that point on for centuries Israel as a nation would cease to exist.
- The suggested interpretation of the parable:
 1. The fig tree is Israel.
 2. The other trees represent those Gentile nations, such as Russia, which play a vital role in the final days.
 3. The leaf-bearing event may refer to Israel's modern return to the land.
 4. The generation that would not pass away may speak of that generation born in 1948.
 5. The "things to be accomplished" phrase could speak of Christ's second coming.