

Audio Teaching Sermon

Message #42

A Temporal Distinction

[A Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:22]

Greetings and salutations in the name of the LORD. Welcome to the audio teaching sermon series where our goal is to get you eating steak and potatoes out of the Word of God. Paul stated that there were many Christian followers of his day who weren't suited for even drinking baby's milk. Sadly, in the vast majority of sanctuaries today, I see the same thing. The clergy are preaching messages aimed at getting the people to come back to the building week after week, rather than be directed at educating their lost souls. You're now listening to the **42nd Message** of this sermon series. That makes 42 down and 10,000 to go. Hello there, friends, I am Pastor Jefferson and today I will be continuing with the teaching on the parable of the fig tree that I started in the last lesson. If you recall, the main verse we were using last time was **Matthew 24:32**, where Jesus said, ¹ "Now, learn the parable from the fig tree: ² when already the branch is to be made into tender ³ and we see it putting forth leaves, ⁴ you know that summer is near."

[B The Distant Part of the Parable 1:22 thru 2:40]

This is the topical version of the parable. When I say **topical**, I mean like **'when you apply medicine or suntan lotion to your skin.'** It is the part of the story which is usually the most obvious theme being discussed. To get to the deeper meanings of the parable, we must dig down into the Biblical soil and in conjunction with the help of the Holy Spirit, it can then be revealed to us. So, we discussed the first meaning, what I referred to as **"the distant"** part of the parable in the last message. This meaning showed us that the birth of **Jesus** resulted in Him as the branch, being grafted into humanity and after transitioning from one realm to another, resulted in the creation of many disciples as the end of the age of Adam is approached. We know from the parable associated with **Pharoah** and **Joseph** that the timing would be *after* the passage of 2,000 years, and that the last 14 years would result in 7 years of prosperity, leading to a soul harvest, followed by 7 years of starvation and death, resulting in a soul famine.

[C A Fig Tree No Longer 2:40 thru 3:58]

The 2nd or what I call **"the temporal"** portion of the parable refers to the **nation** of **Israel** itself. Just as we stated last time, **T-1** is referring to the **fig tree**, which means **'the**

actual nation of Israel.’ The nation of Israel ceased being a free state when the Roman general **Pompey** conquered Jerusalem and its surroundings back in **64 BC**. The Romans deposed the ruling **Hasmonean dynasty** of Judea. The Romans then ruled Palestine from **64 BC** until **70 AD**, when the nation of Israel ceased to exist following what is called the **First Jewish-Roman War**. The Hebrew people went into what is called “**the Jewish Diaspora**.” The word **diaspora** translates to “**the scattering of the homogenous Hebrew people far from their ancestral homeland.**’ The Hebrews essentially scattered to the 4 corners of the globe. The Promised Land fell into a place the Bible describes as a “**desolate waste.**” [Ezekiel 33] And it remained in a deserted condition for a long time.

[**D** **Palestine was a Land of Desolation** **3:58 thru 5:19**]

The author **Samuel Clemens** (pen name **Mark Twain**) traveled to the Holy Land in **1866** to document the growing religious tourism due to the invention of the steamboat. This made travel time to Palestine relatively short as compared to sailing ships. The door to Palestine was officially opened in 1832 with the normalization of diplomatic relations between the **US** and the **Ottoman Empire**. Twain was contracted by the **San Francisco Chronicle** to write a series of 51 short articles for their newspaper during his journey to the Holy Land. The result of his findings can be read in Twain’s book, “The Innocents Abroad,” which documented his findings on his journey. Twain described the land as empty and desolate. He wrote, “*There was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil had almost deserted the country.*” He reported traveling all day and only seeing a dozen camels and no people. The Promised Land was indeed a desolate place, just as God had prophesied that it would be.

[**E** **Aliyah to the Promised Land** **5:19 thru 6:50**]

The Hebrew people began returning to the Promised Land shortly after Twain completed his work. They began to immigrate in significant numbers in what is called the **First Aliya**. The Hebrew word **al-LIE-yah** means “**to ascend or to rise.**’ But the Jewish people use it to mean “**the immigration or return to Israel.**’ This first major wave began in **1881** and continued until **1903**, when 35,000 Jews migrated mostly from Eastern Europe and Yemen. It was stimulated by pogroms and violence against Hebrews in those areas. The **2nd Aliyah** took place between **1904** and **1914** when approximately **40,000** Jews

returned to the Promised Land. These Jews came primarily from Russia. The 1st World War effectively ended this Aliya. The 3rd began in 1919 and continued until 1923, when another **40,000** Jews returned during this time. The 4th **Aliyah** began in 1924 and ended five years later in 1929 with **82,000** Jews arriving. The final or 5th Aliyah began in 1929 and ran for a full decade. During this period, over **250,000** Jews came into Palestine.

[**F** **The Rebirth of Israel** **6:50 thru 8:26**]

This return of the Hebrew people in mass was necessary for what was next on God’s prophetic calendar—the re-creation of a Jewish state. This happened on **14 May of 1948**. This was the only recorded return of an ethnic people from out of antiquity to their ancestral homeland in history. It had never happened before nor since the creation of the nation of **Israel**. And don’t for one moment think this was a well-orchestrated or planned out event; for it most certainly was not. I authored a book entitled “**The End is Near**,” back in **2012** which chronologically explores how this miracle came to be. It was the fulfillment of plenty of prophecy, let me tell you. The book contains over **400** 8.5” x 11” pages printed in small font. This effort was not equivalent to throwing darts at a dartboard. No, it was a *herculean* effort of studying prophecy, using math, counting days and then determining dates. The point of the 2nd part of the parable, is that without a growing Hebrew population living within the borders of the Promised Land again, aka the **nation of Israel**, we know we could not be close to the end. But Israel has been here since 1948, and despite many attempts to remove her, she is here to stay.

[**G** **Israel Surrendered to Rome** **8:26 thru 10:07**]

Going back to our parable now, when we measure the time from when the nation of Israel was effectively abolished until it was reinstated, we once more discover a time period in excess of 2,000 years. The Jewish historian **Josephus** reported that the ruling **Hasmonean dynasty**, the last Hebrew government of Judah before the modern age, fell in the 3rd Hebrew month of **Silvan** in **64 BC**. The two parties of the Hasmonean rulers were fighting each other for control of Judah. You know the old saying, “United we stand, divided we fall.” Judah fell on the **19th of April 64 BC**, when a Roman general named Pompey entered Jerusalem. The defeated Jewish people were forced to accept the terms of surrender, and they became a province of the Roman Empire. Using NASA derived charts, we can determine the length of time from Judah’s surrender, until Israel declared

independence. When we calculate the interval between **19 April 64 BC** (*defeat of the Hasmonean Dynasty*) and **14 May 1948** (*Israel Independence Day*) we arrive at an interval of **734,529** days. That works out to be exactly **2,011 years**, and **27 days**, for all those math geeks out there. Take a look at **Section E** on the Sermon Summary Sheet.

[**H** **Triangulating on Prophecy** **10:07 thru 11:13**]

So, we know that the reappearance of Israel was yet another sign that the age of Adam was nearing the end. Once more, we have an interval just beyond the 2 days of Genesis, or 2,000 years, confirming the re-appearance of Israel as a thriving nation. God’s prophetic word goes hand in glove with what we have seen in history. And don’t forget the seven fat and skinny cows from Pharoah’s dream represent the Hebrew people. But there is also a tie into Jesus in this part of the parable as well. Before I introduce this part of the evidence, allow me a few words regarding prophecy. When I have discovered some element of prophecy, as I mentioned above, I always look for at least one other supporting element to back it up. It is sort of like using a system of triangulating prophecy. When two or more prophecies are supporting the same date or interval, I can then accept that the date and/or event is thus reliable.

[**I** **God Does Not Lie** **11:13 thru 12:46**]

But please, don’t accept any of this teaching blindly. Check out every verse I mention and go ahead and do the math when I present numbers and figures. After all, “*Figures lie and liars figure,*” right? The data I present always comes from known historical dates and times, based 100% on Scripture. NONE of this information originates from out of my brain. The Holy Spirit alone is the driving force behind this material. Having said that, I am still fallible as I am not being told of this evidence directly. Rather, I am being led to its discovery. So, it is entirely possible for me to make mistakes. But so far so good. At last check, I have been allowed to calculate and find 65 dates for prophetic events (past, present and future) without experiencing any significant error. One final thought: this data is presented for the glory of God alone. It is knowledge that has been *given* to me. As such, I will never seek wealth, fame or influence from knowing this information. Sort of like when someone works for a company, everything they discover becomes proprietary of the organization. I serve at God’s pleasure, and so He is the owner of everything that I have been given.

[**J** **Waiting for His Ministry to Begin** **12:46 thru 14:55**]

I mentioned that this part of the parable I call “*the temporal*” has a tie into Jesus as well. Here’s how we get to it. Israel (Judah) effectively disappeared as an independent nation on **19 April 64 BC**. The nation of Israel came into being on **14 May 1948**. That was **2011 years** and **27 days** later. I call this time period, “*Hebrew Nation was Missing.*” Jesus Christ began His ministry on **22 October 29** and will bodily return on **17 November 2040**. This will effectively end His ministry during the age of Adam on that date. I describe this interval as the “*The Full Time of Jesus.*” This interval is equal to the aforementioned interlude, equaling **2011 years** and **27 days** exactly. Coincidence? You can decide for yourself, but I don’t believe that it is. What these two events do create is an overlap which I refer to as “*Waiting for the arrival of Messiah.*” In the first case of the disappearing Hebrews, Jesus of Nazareth began preaching His ministry on **22 October 29**. Thus, after Judah disappeared on **19 Apr 64 BC**, the world waited **92 years, 188 days** for Jesus to *begin His ministry*. By the way, I will prove that Jesus began His ministry on that exact date in a future sermon. In the 2nd case, we have the Hebrew nation reappearing on **14 May 1948**. The world will wait **92 years, 188 days** for the *ministry of Jesus to end*, on **17 Nov 2040**. Again, review these miraculous intervals on Part E of the Sermon Summary pdf.

[**K** **Jesus was About Thirty Years of Age** **14:55 thru 16:46**]

In both cases the world was waiting for the *arrival of the Messiah*, following the disappearance/reappearance of the nation of Israel. Since Jesus was born on **25 December 1 BC**, He would have been **28 years** and **302 days** old on **22 October 29 AD**. Open your Bible to **Luke 23:3**. It reads, ¹ “*Jesus Himself was about thirty years old*” ² *when He began His ministry.*” At first glance, it appears I made an error. Hmm, let’s take a closer look. Recall our discussion back in **message #10** when we were discussing the age of the *boy Jesus*. The Hebrews count the **1st year** of life as **1**, the **2nd** as **2**, etc. So, while Jesus would have been **28.9 years** of age when he began His ministry, by Hebrew counting, Jesus would have already been in His **29th year**. Look in **T-1** at the word **about**. The *Greek* word we see is *ho-SAY* and translates to ‘**about, much like, or as it were.**’ The minority definition is “*nearly*” when preceding a numerical value, just as it does here. So, **verse 3** should read, ¹ “*Jesus Himself was nearly thirty years old*” ² *when He began His ministry.*” At this point in time, Jesus was just a bit more than two months away from

His 29th birthday, upon which the Hebrews would then begin announcing His age as 30. So, to say that Jesus was “nearly 30” when He began His ministry would be 100% correct.

[**L** **Four Appearances of Jesus** **16:46 thru 17:55**]

The entire Gospel is all about the appearance of Jesus. There are actually 4 separate times mentioned in Scripture marking His appearance. The **1st time** was at His birth. The **2nd time** was after He exited the desert, following His 40 days of being tempted by the devil. He was then comforted by angels and withdrew to Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was the time when He began His ministry. Then there was the **3rd time** following His emergence from the tomb, having been resurrected in victory over death. And the **4th and final time** will be when He returns at the end of the Age of Adam. God gives us plenty of hints. Since it was **92 years & 188 days** from Judah being lost until the start of Christ’s ministry, it should not be surprising that God chose the same interval to mark the time from the reappearance of **Israel** until the end of Christ’s ministry, taking place at His **Second Coming**.

[**Z** **Some Final Thoughts** **17:55 thru 19:26**]

The point to remember is that the reappearance of the fig tree is a huge marker on the world stage, which is impossible to miss regarding the return of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Israel was lost, her people scattered to the 4 winds for over 2,000 years. To see her miraculously come back together, with the same Hebrew people returning to a wild and hollow land, just as the LORD had said, was truly a miracle worthy of God alone. She has faced countless wars and attacks, and yet the fig tree that is Israel remains firmly rooted in her historical and ancestral homeland. But the attacks and wars against her are not over. There is still serious trouble that awaits Israel. She will gain some respite during the 7 years of plenty; but would be utterly crushed in the 7 years of famine, were it not for the kind and gentle hand of the **LORD** upon her people. The word **temporal** also means **‘of or relating to a distinction of time.’** Thus, from the time Israel reappeared until Jesus reappears is truly a temporal moment of time. Speaking of time, that’s all we have for today. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God’s Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**