

Audio Teaching Sermon    Message #49    Earth Will Pass Away

[ A    Intro – Pastor Jefferson    0:00 thru 1:11 ]

Hey everybody. I’m pastor Jefferson and you are now listening to the **49<sup>th</sup> message** in the **Audio Teaching Sermon Series**. In the last audio sermon, we discussed the 3 Arrivals of Christ, with special emphasis on His soon coming **2<sup>nd</sup> arrival**, commonly referred to as **“The Rapture.”** We’ve been discussing the 3 prophecies associated with the **Fig Tree**, with our latest focus having been on the 3<sup>rd</sup> one, which I refer to as **“The Imminent.”** Before we move on to complete that discussion, I want to address the timing of the Rapture along with the Christian **mythological statement** that *“No one knows the day or the hour.”* Once again, you will see that Satan has influenced the preaching from the pulpit, and you will also see that statement is clearly made in error. When we began our study of the topic of the **Fig Tree**, we read in **Matt 24:32** where Jesus uses the appearance of the nation of Israel as the first big sign marking the beginning of the **“End Times.”**

[ B    Television Overtook Radio    1:11 thru 2:10 ]

With that event, God Almighty started His proverbial stopwatch. And since it was a prominent, physical event, all the folks around could see it with their eyes and/or hear with their ears, as it was a widely reported event. In **1948**, **radio** was the dominant electronic media where people got their news. But television had already been invented, and programming was on the air. The first public broadcast took place on **2 Nov 1936**, when the BBC launched its public television service in London. Now, it wasn’t until the early 1950’s when a sufficient number of folks had television sets in their homes to overtake radio. The point is, while perhaps the uber majority of the world’s population didn’t know the significance of the **creation of the nation of Israel**, they still knew of it.

[ C    Christ’s Third Arrival    2:10 thru 3:53 ]

Open your Bible now to the verse following the prophecy of the Fig Tree. It is **Matt 24:33**. It says, **1** *“Thus, you also,* **2** *when you see all these things,* **3** *know that He is near,* **4** *right at the doors.”* What things are Jesus talking about? The short answer is *everything* He just mentioned in Chapter **24** of **Matthew**, prior to **verse 33**. Now, I’m going to let you in on a little secret. When you read all the verses *prior* to verse 33, you will see that Jesus is talking about everything starting with the **creation of Israel**, and continues all the way to the point when Jesus **collects his 144,000 witnesses**, which He intentionally leaves behind at the **Rapture**. So, we can tell right away that He is talking here about His

3<sup>rd</sup> arrival and not the Rapture. In T-1 we see the word **thus**. In the *Greek* it is the word *HOO-tos*. We discussed this word back in **Audio Sermon #12**. It is a commonly seen word in Scripture and means, **‘in keeping with, in this manner or correspondingly.’** It refers to the dialog which immediately precedes it. So, for us, it refers to the appearance of the fig tree and it’s putting forth of leaves—indicative of the fulfillment of all the associated prophecies that Jesus mentioned.

[ **D** A Grand Entrance of Jesus 3:53 thru 5:35 ]

The next words we see in T-1 are **also** **you**. These are very commonly used words. Jesus is plainly talking to everyone who reads this verse. In T-2 He says, *“When you see all these things,”* He is talking about not just seeing, but understanding their significance. The word for **you** **see** is *eye-DEH-tay* and means **‘to stare at, to discern clearly or to experience.’** It’s where we get our modern word identify from. **Identify** means **‘to perceive or state the condition of something as being as described.’** So, when one comes to understand that all these things are taking place, we can know that the return of Jesus is indeed near. In T-3, the word for **know** is *ghin-NOS-ka-tay*, which means **‘to be sure, to be fully aware of or to perceive.’** It brings the idea of knowing something in an absolute sense. So, when we are sure of what we are seeing, we know that the return of Jesus is, as T-4 tells us, *“Right at the door.”* The word for **door** is [2] *thigh-RAY-is* and means **‘a portal or entrance.’** In this case, it’s metaphorically speaking of the 3<sup>rd</sup> arrival or entrance of Christ. Both times this particular word is seen, it is always talking about this specific arrival.

[ **E** Some Witnesses Will Still be Alive 5:35 thru 7:34 ]

In the next verse, Jesus offers us even more clarity. Look now at **verse 34**. It reads, <sup>1</sup> *“Truly* <sup>2</sup> *I say to you,* <sup>3</sup> *this generation will certainly not pass away* <sup>4</sup> *until all these things shall have taken place.”* We see in T-1 just one word—it is **truly**. Which in the *Greek* is the word *ah-MANE* which translates to **‘firm, trustworthy, or surely.’** It’s why folks will say **“Amen”** when the pastor preaches a point that is without question. The word in T-3 for **generation** is *ghen-neh-AH* and means **‘the period or lives of specific persons.’** It means a whole multitude of men, all living at the same time. These persons Jesus is referring to will not pass away. The word for **pass** **away** is [6] *pair-rel-THEY* and means to **‘to go away, to perish, or to die.’** The people who witness these events will not pass from this world before all that Jesus mentioned actually happens. The word in T-4 for

shall have taken place is *ghen-NEH-tie* and it translates to mean ‘**to come into being, to happen or to be complete.**’ The word signifies a change in condition, as in the *manifestation* of something. The word **manifest** means ‘**to be readily perceived by the senses and especially the sense of sight.**’ So, at least some of the folks who witnessed the formation of the state of Israel, will still be alive when Jesus returns at His **3<sup>rd</sup> arrival**.

[ **F** **Heaven and Earth will Pass Away** **7:34 thru 9:17** ]

Jesus is plainly telling us that there will be persons who were witness to the nation of Israel’s birth in **1948** who will still be alive upon His **3<sup>rd</sup> arrival**. If this event indeed happens in the year **2040**, and we know the rebirth of **Israel** was in **1948**, that’s a difference of **92 years, 188 days**. So, the remaining question is how old does a person need to be to understand the *significance* of Israel being formed as a nation? If we assume say **10 years** of age, then the people who would still be alive at Christ’s **3<sup>rd</sup> arrival** would be 102. Today, it is estimated that the number of people worldwide who reach the **age of 103** is approx. 570,000. And man’s average longevity is still increasing. So, here is yet another example that God is being just about as patient with us as He can be. He would not be able to wait much longer, perhaps even an additional decade might be too long. Okay, the placement of the next verse is critical. **Matt 24:35** says, <sup>1</sup> “*The heaven and the earth will pass away—* <sup>2</sup> *but My words shall not pass away.*” Jesus just told us that the generation to see all these signs, will not pass away before His **3<sup>rd</sup> Arrival**, or the **2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ**.

[ **G** **Earth is Where We Live** **9:17 thru 10:03** ]

He then uses an analogy showing us that all things will eventually pass away. He says in **T-1**, “*THE heaven and THE earth will pass away.*” Jesus just made a **statement of fact**. Nothing lasts forever. Not even the heaven and the earth. The word we see for **heaven** is *oo-ran-OS* and means ‘**air, heaven, or sky.**’ The word is *singular*. Sometimes this word can be plural, but the context of the verse must be used to determine that. We can tell here by the word preceding it, **HO**, is a relative pronoun and means “**the.**” I see translations which frequently misuse this word and get it wrong. The *Greek* word for **earth** is *gay* and means ‘**earth, land, ground or soil.**’ While the occupants of the earth back then didn’t necessarily know that the earth was a rotating sphere, orbiting around the sun, they still understood that the physical earth was the arena in which they lived. The word we see for **will pass away** is [2] *par-rah-LOO-set-tie* and translates ‘**to perish, to go away, or to expire.**’ It is used twice and in each case it means to essentially ‘**cease**

**to exist.** So, Jesus is clear: the place humanity calls home will one day no longer exist. Jesus then quickly gives us an exception to this rule.

[ **H** No One Knows the Day or Hour 11:03 thru 12:56 ]

In T-2 He says, *“But My words shall never pass away.”* The word Jesus used here for **pass away** is [1] *par-rel-THO-sin*. It shares the same root as the word we just discussed. While the heaven and the earth will pass away, Jesus is telling us His word shall NEVER pass away. This particular word is only seen once, highlighting that His word will endure forever. Here’s where the Bible gets very interesting and quite often is misquoted. Look now at **verse 36**. It reads, <sup>1</sup> *“Moreover* <sup>2</sup> *concerning that day and hour,* <sup>3</sup> *no one knows,* <sup>4</sup> *not even the angels of the heavens,* <sup>5</sup> *nor the Son,* <sup>6</sup> *but the Father alone.”* Allow me to ask a question here. *“What day or hour is Jesus talking about?”* Make sure and have your Bible open for this part. It is critical to understanding the words of Christ. He cannot be talking about **verse 32**. There He says we will know that summer is near. In **verse 33**, He is actually telling us to *recognize* that He is near. *“Right at the door,”* He says. So, that verse can’t be applicable to not knowing something. **Verse 34** is talking about the final generation not passing away before everything takes place. So, for Jesus to say that we won’t know a day or hour for something which is not going to happen—just doesn’t make sense. Due to errant and ignorant preaching, everyone seems to want to ignore the most obvious answer.

[ **I** When Heaven and Earth Pass Away 12:56 thru 14:24 ]

I want you for a moment to imagine that you are in the audience, listening to the words of Christ. He just said, *“The heaven and the earth will pass away...”* If we were there, we’d be like, “What? What did He just say about the earth passing away?!!!” Jesus knew the thoughts of His disciples listening to His sermon and elected to answer their unreported question. That’s when He says, *“No one knows the day or the hour.”* Look at T-1. The word for **moreover** in the *Greek* is *deh* and it is a conjunction and means *‘however, also, or but.’* Things like that. The word **moreover** means *‘in addition to what just has been said.’* In T-2, the word for **concerning** is *peh-REE* and means *‘about, in regard to, or with respect to.’* Jesus is about to explain His last statement. He is in effect saying, *“Hey guys, about what I just said, concerning the day or hour (implied: the passing of the heavens and the earth) ...” no one except the Heavenly Father knows that. Not the angels in the heavens (plural), not even Me.”* Jesus is clearly talking about the passing away of the

atmosphere surrounding the earth, and the earth itself.

[ **J** Who Will Be Left? 14:24 thru 15:55 ]

Even if we assume Jesus is talking about no one knowing the exact timing of His **3<sup>rd</sup> arrival**, this means He is still NOT talking about the **Rapture**. Let's assume that Jesus is also referring here to His **3<sup>rd</sup> arrival**, or what Christians call the "**2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ**." Typically, they don't count the Rapture as "**a coming**," since Jesus never makes it all the way to the ground. Let's examine the facts. My first question is, "*Who is remaining at the time of His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming?*" Well, we have the **Jews** who fled to **Petra**. They will have been isolated over the past 3.5 years. They will not have been saved as of yet. That happens after they visibly see Christ return. The Bible says they will see Him and mourn as one mourns for a lost child. We also have present the **144,000 witnesses**. But they have already been redeemed. The Bible says they will be called and gathered to the mountain where Jesus returns. But, clearly Jesus will know when He's coming back. He's been up in Heaven with His Father for over **2,000 years**, by this time. At the time Jesus spoke of His **2<sup>nd</sup> coming**, He likely didn't know the timing of His return. But surely He knows now. So, who's left?

[ **K** Blinded to the Day and Hour 15:55 thru 17:19 ]

I believe that at the moment of Christ's **3<sup>rd</sup> Arrival**, only those bearing the mark of the beast will remain, other than those in Petra and God's witnesses. All others will be dead, either murdered for not accepting the mark, or by starvation, or those killed by any of the scores of scourges God sends down as mentioned in the book of Revelation. And those subjects of the Antichrist won't know or care anything regarding the exact timing for the return of Christ. Even the **Antichrist**, the **false prophet**, the **beast** and perhaps even **Satan** will not know the day or hour that Jesus is coming back. As I've said, it is my belief based on the timing of other symmetrical prophecies, that Jesus will be returning somewhere in the range of a week or so short of the 7 years of the peace accord the Antichrist signed with Israel. Now, we know that Christ's return to earth has a Biblical parallel, which Jesus gives us to help with understanding the timing of His return we are calling His **3<sup>rd</sup> Arrival**. Open your Bible now to **verse 37**. It reads, <sup>1</sup> "*As it were for the days of Noah* <sup>2</sup> *so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*"

[ **L** Noah's Ark was a Rescue 17:19 thru 18:40 ]

The first thing I want to point out before we begin breaking this verse down in detail,

is that there was no equivalent event during Noah's construction of the ark which equates directly to the Rapture of the church. Now, God did have Noah load all the applicable animals onto the ark prior to the start of the Great Flood. The purpose was to protect them from the flood. They were preserved for the purpose of replenishing the earth. This act is much more emblematic of the Hebrew people held and protected in Petra. They will be kept safe for essentially the same purpose—to repopulate the earth. It was also to fulfill God's promise that the Hebrew nation would persevere forever. Petra then can be viewed symbolically as a second ark. Now, during the Millennial Reign of Christ, everyone who did not take the mark of the beast, as well as all of those from the past who never *rejected* Christ, will be resurrected to live out their lives in a Garden of Eden state, with the Gospel preached to every person. As I've said before, it will be rare to find people who will not embrace Christ during this era of peace and prosperity.

[ **Z** **Some Final Thoughts** **18:40 thru 20:33** ]

So, without prolonging the effect of beating a dead horse to try and get it to run, we can clearly see that Jesus is not talking about the **Rapture** in any manner in **Matt 24**. In future sermons, this point will be made even more crystal clear. And while no one apart from our Heavenly Father who knows the day and hour of the earth's demise, I do believe that Jesus, and even the angels know the day and hour of His **3<sup>rd</sup> arrival**. I also believe that none of the unchanged mortal folks remaining on the planet at that time will know the day or hour of His 3<sup>rd</sup> arrival. As I've indicated, Jesus will shorten those days, without any of them knowing to prevent the Antichrist from destroying humanity and/or the Jews in Petra using nuclear weapons. Perhaps his gathering of all the people into the region for the purpose of fighting Jesus upon His return is nothing more than a ruse. Surely Satan must know the people still living on the earth stand exactly a zero chance at fighting and winning a battle with the LORD. So, for what other reason would the devil gather all those folks together if not to try and destroy them using his arsenal of nuclear weapons? This scenario certainly makes sense in light of God needing to shorten the days. We will, of course, spend much more time on this topic in the upcoming sermons. It is vital information which should bring calm to your soul and not angst to your intellect. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God's Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**