****

***LAST DAYS PROPHECY Series (Part 4)***

***“ISRAEL IN THE LATTER DAYS!”***

**John the beloved, wrote in Revelation 19:10,**

***“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."***

**> Jesus said, “*Learn this Parable of the Fig Tree”* (Matthew 24:32-33)**

**(v32) *“Learn”* in Greek is *methete* which comes from *manthano* and denotes (a) "to learn" (akin to mathetes, "a disciple"), "to increase one's knowledge," or "be increased in knowledge," frequently "to learn by inquiry, or observation," (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words).**

***- “Fig Tree”* - The blooms of the fig tree always appear before the leaves in spring. There were usually two crops of figs a year. The failure of the fig trees was a national calamity. Their productiveness was a token of peace and the divine favor. The fig tree differs from most other fruit trees in that its fruit is green and inconspicuous, concealed among leaves until near the time of ripening. If the promise given from a distance by the leaves is not fulfilled on approaching the tree is a hypocrite.**

**- Jesus cursed the unproductive fig tree in Mark 11:12-14,20-21, there’s also a *parable of a barren fig tree* in Luke 13:6-10 - *He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'"* This symbolically represented Israel’s lack of spiritual fruit to God.**

**- The fig tree has symbolically represented Israel in the past according to Hosea 9:10 - *"I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. But they went to Baal Peor, and separated themselves to that shame; they became an abomination like the thing they loved.”***

**- Also, Jeremiah Ch. 24. Jesus said in this parable (Mt. 24:32), *“When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves you know that summer is near.”* Which is a time for harvest, more emphatically a Jewish harvest in the *Great Tribulation* period (Rom. Ch. 11; Rev. 7).**

**- Barnes writes, “When the juices return from the roots into the branches, and the buds swell and burst, "*as if tender*," and too feeble to contain the pressing and expanding leaves when you see that, you judge that spring and summer are near.”**

**(v33) “*When you see all these things, know that it is near”***

**- We need to ask two questions in reverse order:**

**(1) What is *near* when the fig tree comes alive again? That which is near is *the 70th week of Daniel* (Daniel Ch. 9:24-27) with *the abomination of desolation* (Mt. 24:15-20), *the great tribulation* (Mt. 24:21-22), *the 2nd coming of Christ* (Mt. 24:26-30).**

**(2) What are the things we shall see leading up to these events? The global events discussed in Mt. 24:4-14 and Israel becoming a nation (May 14, 1948), once again with Jerusalem under their reign (this took place in 1967 through the six-day war), (Mt. 24:32).**

***> Observe Israel’s Prophetic History, Present day, and Future:***

***(1) Israel is chosen by God!***

***"Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and ... I will take you to me for a people ... and I will be your God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God..."* (Exodus 6:6-7)**

***"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth."* (Deuteronomy 14:2)**

***"And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine."* (Leviticus 20:26)**

***"For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure."* (Psalm 135:4)**

***(2) God Promised the Jews a Land!***

**(*Jew* in Hebrew is *yehudi*, which means *“a praise to God.”)* – The *Bible* (in the *Torah*) says, *In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:"* (Genesis 15:18)**

***Now the LORD had said unto Abram, “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* (Genesis 12:1-3)**

***"For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever."* (Genesis 13:15)**

**He renewed that promise to Abraham's son Isaac. (Genesis 26:3-5); then again to Abraham's grandson Jacob (Genesis 28:13), (Jacob's name was later changed to "Israel"). God then promised it to their descendants after them and forevermore. (**[**Leviticus 25:46**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/Lev/Lev025.html#46) **...** [**Joshua 14:9**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/Jos/Jos014.html#9) **etc.)**

***(3) The Nation was scattered due to unbelief!***

***"And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you."* (Deuteronomy 4:27)**

***"And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone."* (Deuteronomy 28:64)**

***"Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations."* (2 Chronicles 7:20*)***

***"But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate."* (Zechariah 7:14)**

***"And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them"* (Jeremiah 29:18)**

***(4) God said that He would regather Israel back to the land in the last days!***

**- *"For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."* (Jeremiah 30:3)**

**"*Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. " For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."* (Jeremiah 30:10-11)**

***"Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travails with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he."* (Jeremiah 31:8-10)**

***"Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;"* (Isaiah 43:5,6)**

***"Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God."* (Ezekiel 11:17-20)**

***"As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out."* (Ezekiel 20:33-34)**

***"Thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen, then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob. And they shall dwell safely therein, and shall build houses, and plant vineyards; yea, they shall dwell with confidence, when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about them; and they shall know that I am the LORD their God."* (Ezekiel 28:25-26)**

***"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea."* (Isaiah 11:11).**

**- May 14th, 1948 Israel became a nation once again and the Jewish people have been pouring into Israel at an astonishing rate. Israel’s population is now at 9 million and growing!**

***(5) Jerusalem belongs to God!***

**- Jerusalem is mentioned over 800 times in the Bible. *(But not once in the Koran!)* This is the ONE place in the entire world, that Jehovah God - the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - has singled out and called "His Own". *"But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel."* (2 Chronicles 6:6)**

***"For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."* (2 Chronicles 7:16)**

***“.... God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name forever"* (2 Chronicles 33:7)**

***"For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation."* (Psalm 132:13) Israel retrieved Jerusalem in 1967 at the end of the six-day war.**

**In Zechariah 12:2-3, 9 we are told, *"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." . . . "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."***

***(6) God said in the last days that He would revive Israel!***

**– This amazing prophecy is found in Ezekiel Ch. 36—37.**

***(7) Paul called the future regathering and revival of Israel a mystery in Romans 11.***

**- C.I. Scofield writes about Israel’s purpose in history: A fourfold mission:**

***(1) To witness to the unity of God in the midst of universal idolatry (cp. Dt. 6:4 with Isa. 43:10-12);***

***(2) To illustrate to the nations the blessedness of serving the true God (Dt. 33:26-29; 1 Chr. 17:20-21; Ps. 144:15);***

***(3) To receive, preserve, and transmit the Scriptures (Dt. 4:5-8; Rom. 3:1-2); and***

***(4) to be the human channel for the Messiah (Gen. 3:1-5; 12:3; 22:18; 28:10-14; 49:10 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Mt. 1:1; Rom. 1:3). According to the prophets Israel, regathered from all nations, restored to her own land and converted, is yet to have her greatest earthly exaltation and glory.***

***(8) The Church has not replaced Israel, but has received salvation through their Messiah, Jew and Gentile alike (Gentile in Hebrew is “goy”, which simply means “nation”)!***

**- Isaiah 49:6 - *Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'"***

**- Isaiah 11:10 - *"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."***

**- Psalms 18:49 - *Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.***

**(v33) “*This generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place”***

**This cannot refer to the generation living at that time of Christ, for *“all these things”* found in Matthew Ch. 24*—the abomination of desolation* (v. 15), *the* *persecutions and judgments* (vv. 17–20), *the great tribulation* (vv. 21-22), *the false prophets* (vv. 23–26), the *signs in the heavens* (vv. 27–29), *Christ’s final return* (v. 30), *and the* *gathering of the elect* (v. 31)—did not “take place” in their lifetime.**

**- Remember Jesus said in Matthew 24:21-22 - *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.* The elect is the faithful Jewish people who believe that Jesus is their Messiah, the Savior of the world!**

**- This *parable of the fig tree* (the regathering of Israel to their land) reveals that the “rapture” (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52) is soon and the “Great Tribulation” (Rev. Ch. 6—19) is coming!**

**- Warren Wiersbe comments on the Jewish people and God’s promised kingdom, he writes, “When Isaiah looked at his people, he saw a sinful nation that would one day walk the "highway of holiness" and enter into a righteous kingdom. He saw a suffering people who would one day enjoy a beautiful and peaceful kingdom. He saw a scattered people who would be regathered and reunited under the kingship of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught us to pray, *"Thy kingdom come"* (Matt 6:10); for only when His kingdom comes can there be peace on earth.”**

**ARE YOU SAVED? Notice Jesus said, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”* DO YOU BELIEVE? PRAY TO JESUS CHRIST AND ASK HIM TO SAVE YOU!**