

4. The Prophecy of Christ. (Read the whole of Mtt. Ch. 24:)

25.11.2014.

i. Ancient tradition restored:

Mtt. 24.20; *'Pray that your flight be not on the Sabbath day.'* This verse is in context with the final battle vv15-28; There is a strong inference that Christ pointed to the general time (*not day or hour*) of His return when His Disciples asked Him two very important questions:

(a) *'What will be the sign of Your coming?'* (b) *'What will be the sign of the end of the age?'* Mtt. 24.3;

After looking at the various signs in previous studies; the Jewish peoples being in the land of Palestine as a nation at the time of Christ's return: He speaks of, *'those in Judea fleeing to the mountains.'* Mt.24.16; In v20; He says, *'pray that your flight be not on the Sabbath..'* This indicates that their ancient religious tradition was restored. Thus hindering a rapid escape from the *predicted armies. The Jews thought it unlawful to walk more than two *thousand paces (two miles)* on the Sabbath.

(Note *Ezk.ch.38. and Zec.ch. Chpts. 12 13, 14,)

ii. The Temple is built:

Mtt. 24.15 - 28; see Dan. 11.31; 12.11; *'When you therefore see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, standing in the Holy Place*'

Jesus' prediction of the Nation being restored to the *Land* is extremely significant, when we recall He predicts a world-wide dispersion and complete destruction of the Nation, which would begin with the generation that crucified Him:

Comp. Lk. 19. 43-44; *'For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will build an embankment around you and close you in on every side 44.and level you to the ground: and they will not leave you one stone upon another, **because you did not know the time of your visitation.**'*

With. Lk.21. 22-24; *'These are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23.But woe unto them which are with child and to them which give suck in those days, for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24.And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and **Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**'* Note: The 'times of the Gentiles' began with Nebuchadnezzar 600.B.C.

Note: [*'These verses from St. Luke's Gospel refer to **the siege of Jerusalem by Titus in A.D. 70.** When the city was taken, and v.24 literally fulfilled - **not to be confused with Mtt. 24:15-28; with Mk. 13:14-26;** yet to be fulfilled, which will be the final battle (*Armageddon) and tribulation. The City will be taken but delivered by the glorious appearing of the Lord.'] C.I. Scofield. The key verse here is Mtt.24. v15;*

After giving such a sobering prophecy, Jesus looks still further to the future and describes the ..conditions which would prevail at *His coming*:

He puts the Jew back in the Land as a Nation – it is in this context that Jesus predicts an extremely important time clue:

iii. The Budding Fig Tree: Mtt. 24. 32 – 33; *'Now hear a parable of the Fig Tree; when its branch is yet tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; even so you too, when you shall see these things; recognise that it is near, even at the doors.'*

When the signs given, begin to multiply, it is like the certainty of leaves growing on a 'Fig Tree'. The most important sign in Matthew has to be the restoration of the Jews. Most of the other signs previously given are events that have always been - the difference being, their *gaining momentum*.

The most important sign, has to be the restoration of the Jews to the land and *'the rebirth of the State of Israel.'*

Even the figure of speech 'Fig Tree' has a historical message as it is the '*national symbol*' of Israel. When Jewish people, after 2,000yrs of exile; under relentless persecution, became a Nation again on 14th May 1948. the 'Fig Tree' put forth its leaves. (Note. Contrast this with Mk. 11. 12-14; - The cursed Fig Tree.) Jesus said this would indicate that He was at '*the very doors; ready to return*'.

Then He said: (Mtt.24.34;) "*Truly I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away until all these things shall take place.*"

Q. What things? A. The signs we have been studying; chief amongst them 'the Rebirth of Israel'.

Q. What Generation? A. The generation that would live to see the completion the signs.

There are yet some that are to be fulfilled: the *third Temple built and completed; abomination of desolation; Spiritual rebirth of Israel and the final battle – Armageddon (Mtt 24.15-28;) to name a few.*

Bill McGee. Orbit of Ashes 1972. Quote: "*On May 14th 1948 the wandering Jew became a Nation again: the 'Fig Tree' bloomed into life again. The once withered Israel is again near the centre of world action.*

Jerusalem, the Jew's Holy City was under Gentile control from A.D. 70.

In June 1967 this little Nation took on the combined powers of the surrounding Arab Nations; 100 hrs Later the Jews controlled all Jerusalem; the ancient Capital.

God promised to bring His people back in the latter years ... and so He is...

Although they have not repented as a nation as yet, and sought God's help and leadership; they are back in their land: where He will deal with them supernaturally as a People of Destiny."

For almost 2,000 yrs God has been dealing with the Church. The nearer we get to the Second Advent we shall see Him dealing with Israel.

The '*Fig Tree*' is budding. '*The Dead Bones*' are coming together.

Israel is the 'pointer' of God's world clock - it is already pointing to midnight.

The Inhabitants of Israel are now in their millions.

iv. **The Final Battle – Armageddon.** See the previous page (P. 8.ii. *highlighted*) A separate study will be brought out on this

Mtt. 24. 15 – 28; Mk. 13. 14 – 26; These two Passages need to be read in context with:

Zech. Chaps. 12 – 14. Which form one prophecy - the general theme, which is the return of the Lord, and the establishment of the Kingdom.

The order is:

Chapter 12:

(i) The siege and deliverance *Part 1.* vv1-3 of Jerusalem (*preceding the 'final battle' - Armageddon.*)

(ii) The Battle and deliverance itself. vv4-9;

(iii) The pouring out of the Spirit and the revelation of Christ to the *remnant* v10; (*read with Ch.13. vv 6,7;*)

(iv) Repentance of the *remnant* vv11-14;

Chapter 13:

(v) The cleansing fountain v1;

(vi) Putting away of foreign Idols, false prophets and deceit vv1-5;

(vii) Read vv6,7, with ch. 12.10; See above.

(viii) The final battle – *Armageddon vv8 – Ch. 14. 1-3;

Chapter 14.

(ix) The visible return of Christ vv4-8;

(x) The setting up of the Kingdom on Earth vv9-15

(xi) The worship and rule of the Kingdom 16-21;

**Armageddon (Mt of Megiddo). The sight of the final battle of this age in which God intervenes to destroy the armies of satan and cast him and his armies into the bottomless pit. (Rev.16.16;) Scholars disagree about the exact location of this p[lace]. But the most likely possibility is the valley between Mt Carmel and the City of Jezreel. This valley is also known as the Valley of Jezreel. (source: Nelson.) Rev. 16. v16;*

'Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming' !! (Mtt.24.42;)

