

# Matthew Series

## Lesson #158

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

***This Generation: Watch, Be Ready***

**Matthew 24:32–44**

## **Matt. 24:23–31**

- 1. Review: Key things to remember.**
- 2. What is the meaning and significance of the parable of the fig tree?**
- 3. What is the meaning of “this generation”?**
- 4. Who is taken, who remains?**

# **Matt. 24:23–31**

**1. Review: Key things to remember.**

## **Matt. 24:23–31**

- 1. Review: Key things to remember.**
  - a. Jewish background—Jesus is not talking about the Church or the Church Age.**
  - b. All of the events described in vv. 4–31 take place within the 7-year period of the Tribulation or Daniel’s seventieth week.**
  - c. In Matt. 24:27 Jesus describes the circumstances surrounding His return (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming), which describes what is called the Day of the Lord in the Old Testament, but is not referred to by Jesus as the Day of the Lord.**

## **Matt. 24:23–31**

**1. Review: Key things to remember.**

**d. There are key differences between the Rapture and the Second Coming.**

# 1. Similarities do not mean things are the same.



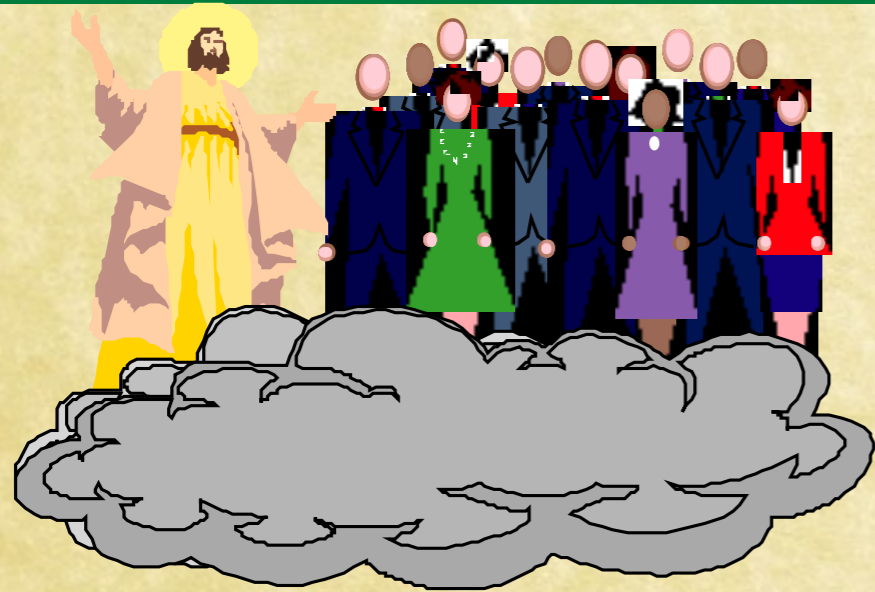
# 1. Similarities do not mean things are the same.





# RAPTURE /2ND COMING CONTRASTS

## Rapture



**14. Christ gathers  
believers to  
meet Him in  
the air.  
1 Thess. 4:16–17**

## Second Coming Established Kingdom



**14. Angels  
regather the  
elect, Jewish  
believers, to  
Israel.  
Matt. 24:31**

**Jer. 16:14, “ ‘Therefore behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that it shall no more be said, “The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,” ’**

**Jer. 16:15, “ ‘but, “The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.” For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.’ ”**

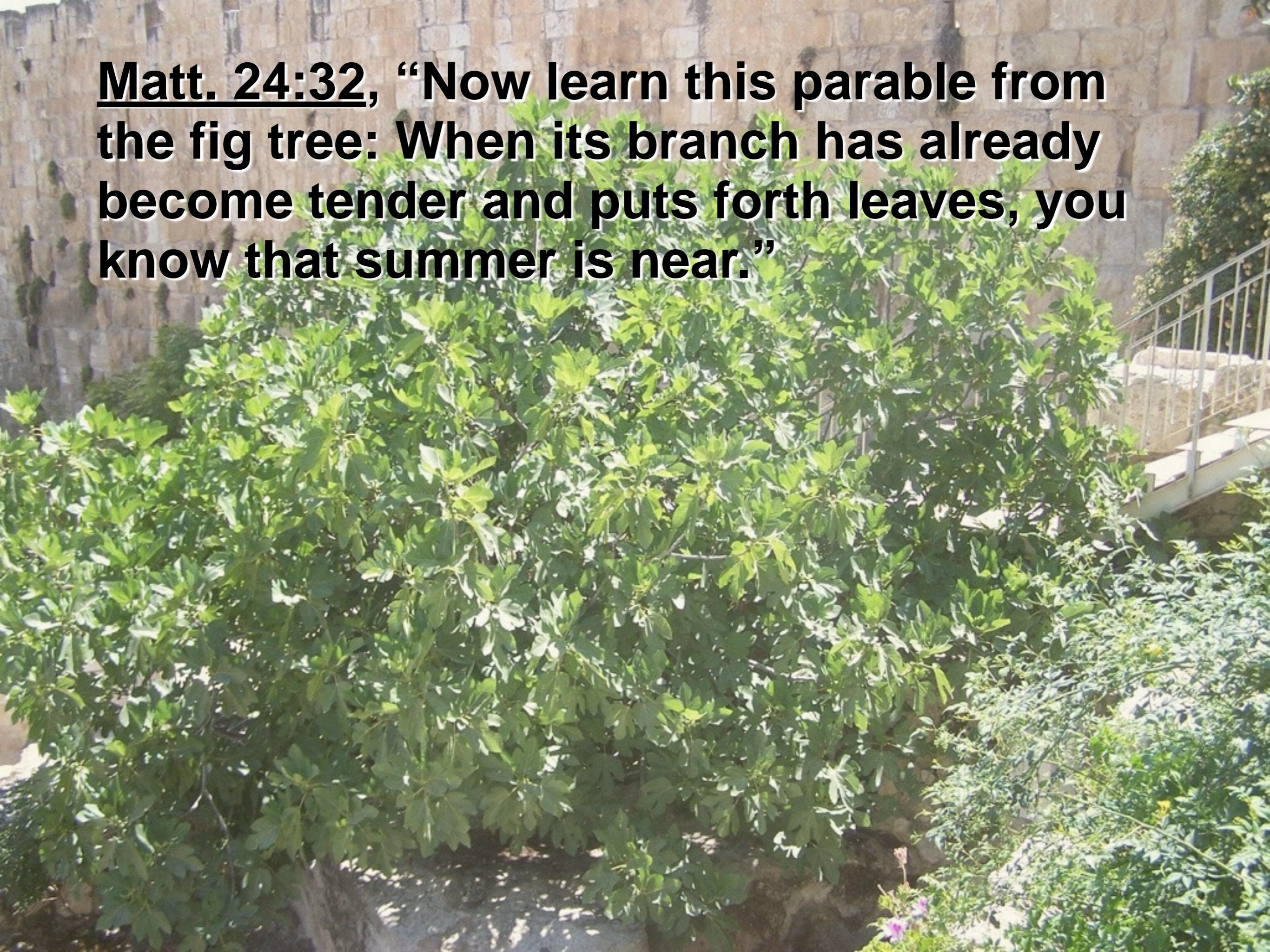
**Isa. 27:12, “And it shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will thresh, from the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt; And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel.**

**Isa. 27:13, “So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.”**

**2. What is the meaning and significance of the parable of the fig tree?**

**Matt. 24:3, “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’ ”**

**Matt. 24:32, “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.”**



**Matt. 24:32, “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.”**

**παραβολή *parabolē*  
acc fem sing  
proverb; poem;  
parable, an allegory.  
This is a broad,  
general term for an  
illustration.**

**An illustration from  
real life, used to  
instruct about some  
abstract or spiritual  
principle or truth  
through comparison.**

**Matt. 24:32, “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.**

**Matt. 24:33, “So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!**

**Matt. 24:34, “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.”**



**3. What is the meaning of “this generation”?**

**“But the most important sign in Matthew has to be the restoration of the Jews to the land in the rebirth of Israel. Even the figure of speech ‘fig tree’ has been a historic symbol of national Israel. When the Jewish people, after nearly 2,000 years of exile, under relentless persecution, became a nation again on 14 May 1948 the ‘fig tree’ put forth its first leaves.**

**Jesus said that this would indicate that He was ‘at the door,’ ready to return. Then He said, ‘Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place’ ” (Matthew 24:34 NASB).**

**“What generation? Obviously, in context, the generation that would see the signs—chief among them the rebirth of Israel. A generation in the Bible is something like forty years. If this is a correct deduction, then within forty years or so of 1948, all these things could take place. Many scholars who have studied Bible prophecy all their lives believe that this is so.”**

**~Hal Lindsey, *The Late, Great Planet Earth***

# **“This generation”**

- 1. The generation Jesus was addressing—the first-century Jews. (Preterism, or liberals who think Jesus was wrong.)**
- 2. It refers to the race of Jewish people. (Possible, but not the best option.)**
- 3. The Tribulation generation that sees these things. (This is the best.)**

***this generation* = the generation within Daniel's seventieth week (the Tribulation) who witnessed the events spoken about in Matt. 24:4ff.**

**Thus, “*this generation*” shows that God's judgment had a time cap on it and would not last indefinitely.**

**Matt. 24:35, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”**

## **4. Who is taken and who remains?**

**Matt. 24:36, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”**



**Matt. 24:37, “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

**Matt. 24:38, “For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,**

**Matt. 24:39, “and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”**

**Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

**Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”**

**Matt. 24:40, “Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.**

**Matt. 24:41, “Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.”**

**Matt. 24:42, “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”**

**Luke 12:39, “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.**

**Luke 12:40, “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”**

**Matt. 24:43, “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.”**

**Rev. 16:15, “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”**