

Background to the parables

- Matthew 24:3 –
 - Three Questions are asked in verse 3 and answered in chapters 24-25.
 - The question of *when* (answered in 24:4-6)
 - The question of *what*, concerning the sign of the Second Coming (answered in 24:7-28)
 - The question of *what*, concerning the **end of the world** (answered in 24:29-25:46).
 - The first question, answered in summary:
 - Matthew 24:3 – A warning: *it is just the beginning*
 - Matthew 24:5-6 – the first sign: false christs and rumors of war
 - Matthew 24:6b – A warning: *this is not the end*
 - The second question, answered in summary:
 - Matthew 24:7-8 – the **beginning of sorrows**
 - Matthew 24:9-14 – general tribulation
 - Matthew 24:18-20 – the second sign: the **abomination of desolation**
 - Matthew 24:21-28 – **great tribulation**
 - The third question, answered in summary:
 - Matthew 24:29-30 – the third sign: the **Son of man** shall appear
 - Matthew 24:31 – The gathering of the elect (Israel)
 - Matthew 24:32-51 – general details
 - Matthew 25:1-30 – particular details
 - Matthew 25:31 – the son of man on His throne
 - Matthew 25:32-46 – the gathering of the nations.

Matthew 24:32-51 | A Parable and A Type

- Matthew 24:32-36 – The parable of the fig tree.
 - Verse 32 – The simple parable: when the branch puts forth the leaves, **summer is nigh**.
 - Verse 33 – The simple application:
 - **When you see all these things** (likely a reference to the three signs).
 - **...it is near** – the grammar also allows for “He is near,” as noted in a KJV footnote.
 - **...at the doors** – an emphasis of the nearness (unlike with John the Baptist’s announcement of the Kingdom).
 - Verse 34 – The explanation of the nearness:
 - What **generation** is in reference?
 - Our rule must be, “If the plain sense makes common sense seek no other sense.”
 - The plain sense of “the generation living in Jesus’ day” doesn’t make common sense (for it didn’t happen).

- The sense of “the generation of the establishment of Israel (or Jewish settlement of Jerusalem)” is eisegesis (of which many prophecy teachers are guilty).
 - The Greek word is γενεά [genea] from which we get English words like *gene*, *genetics*, and *genealogy*.
 - Furthermore, there is a plethora of words with the *-gen* suffix, each meaning “...the thing which produces.” (Hallucinogenic, carcinogen, etc).
 - With this understanding of the word, we can know that the Greek means *those produced by this gene pool*. Thus this tells us that *Israel shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled*.
- Verses 35-36 – Certainty
 - Verse 35 – God’s Word is sure!
 - Verse 36 – Only the Father knows the **day or the hour**.
- Matthew 24:37-41 – the *type* of the days of Noah
 - Verse 37 – the type itself: the days of Noah are a foreshadow of the **coming of the Son of man**.
 - Verse 38 – the application of the type: *life will go on as normal until the coming of the Messiah* (with apologies to A.O.C.).
 - Verse 39 – The coming of the Son of man will be sudden and unexpected.
 - Verses 40-41 – This is *not* the rapture (which is not mentioned by our Lord), but the judgment, which is certain but unexpected.
- Matthew 24:42-44 – Warning to be ready.
- Matthew 24:45-47 – The **faithful and wise servant**.
- Matthew 24:48-51 – The **evil servant**.

Matthew 25:1-46 | Final Parables

...to be continued