

## Lesson 26: the Olivet Discourse – Part 5

### The “Fig Tree” & “What Generation”

#### 1. Deeper Study on the Signs of the End from the Olivet Discourse:

(Note: **(CGN)** stands for the Combined Gospel Narrative from the Olivet Discourse in Matt. 24 & 25, Mark 13 and Luke 17 & 21)

##### a. Introduction:

- i. In the previous studies of the Olivet Discourse (parts 1-4) we covered all of the signs Jesus provided in the Olivet Discourse. These included:

##### a. Lesson 19 Olivet Discourse – Part 1:

1. False prophets and teachers and compromised believers.
  - a. Deceived believers.
  - b. Fact that many false prophets will appear.
  - c. That day will not come until a falling away comes.
  - d. People will not put up with sound doctrine.
  - e. Truth which comes from the word of God is our only guide.
  - f. False teachers among us.
  - g. Holy Spirit empowers believers to remain faithful.
2. Increase of wars, famine and earthquakes.
  - a. Famines and World hunger.
  - b. Effects of war.
  - c. Pestilences.
  - d. Epidemics.
  - e. Pandemics.
  - f. Earthquakes.
  - g. Fearful sights.
  - h. Animal and human hybrids.
  - i. Great signs in the heavens.
3. Believers and Jews will be hated.
4. Persecution of Gods people.
  - a. Killed.
  - b. Scandalized ('Offended').
  - c. Betrayed.
  - d. Expect world hatred because of...
  - e. They will persecute you also.
  - f. Where Christians are being persecuted today.

- g. 215 Million Christians are currently suffering.
- h. We also Rejoice in our Sufferings.

**b. Lesson 20 Olivet Discourse – Part 2:**

1. False Prophets – False religions.
2. Decrease in love and family affection.
  - a. They will put some of you to death.
3. Increase of lawlessness.
  - a. Love of many will wax cold.
  - b. Lawlessness is opposite of righteousness.
  - c. The secret power of lawlessness is already at work.
  - d. Some abandon the faith.
  - e. Many will be without love.
  - f. Thirty characteristics of wicked men.
  - g. Having a form of godliness.
4. Gospel preached to the whole world.
5. The second coming of the Son of Man.
  - a. The Powers of Heaven shaken.
  - b. The sun will be darkened.
  - c. The Son of Man.
  - d. The gathering of the elect.
  - e. Twenty-four signs of the second coming.

**c. Lesson 23 Olivet Discourse – Part 3:**

1. The Great Tribulation:
  - a. Abomination that causes desolation.
  - b. Jerusalem is surrounded by armies.
  - c. The time of the Gentile is completed.
2. The Second Coming of the Son of Man – In sequence
3. Introduction to “the lesson of the Fig tree.”
  - a. All These things.
  - b. This Generation – What Generation?
4. The day and the hour.
  - a. Only the Father knows.
  - b. Rosh Hashanah and the Rapture
5. Introduction to “the day of Noah and Lot:”

- a. Increase of wickedness.
- b. Noah and judgment of iniquity.
- c. Remember Lot's wife.

6. One taken – another left.

7. Direction to Watch!

- a. My Father's house.

8. Parables that explain further the message from Jesus:

- a. My Master is staying away.
- b. In the evening ... at midnight... at dawn.
- c. You do not know on what day.
- d. An hour when you do not expect Him.
- e. Day will close on you unexpectedly.
- f. Escape all that is about to happen.

9. The Ten Virgins

d. **Lesson 25 Olivet Discourse – Part 4:**

- 1. Introduction to the "Days of Noah" by Prof (Dr) WA Liebenberg.
- 2. The Bare Facts from Noah's Time.
  - a. Nephilim corrupts blood line of mankind.
  - b. Satan attempts to keep Jesus from coming by the bloodline corruption.
- 3. Activation at the Rapture.
  - a. The hour of darkness.
  - b. Many disappear suddenly.
  - c. Alien encounters in the new age.

**b. The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

- i. **(CGN)** "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. So, you also, when you see all these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Matt. 24:32-35, Mark 13:28-31 & Luke 21:29-33)
- ii. **Review of the Fig Tree from Lesson 23:**
  - a. **The Fig Tree.** The leaves blooming on the fig tree (cf. Lk 21:29-31) represent events that will occur during the tribulation (vv. 15-29). Some interpret the fig tree itself to represent the restoration of Israel as a

political state or nation, which has already taken place (cf. Hos 9:10; Lk 13:6-9) (Fire Bible: A Study Bible for Spirit-led Living, 2001)

iii. **Does the Fig Tree in Matthew 24 refer to the restoration of Israel?**

a. **Some say it does not:**

1. Various commentators and teachers of prophecy believe that the Fig Tree Jesus talks about in the Olivet discourse has nothing to do with the nation of Israel and therefore that when Jesus spoke about the generation is not a reference to the end days having direct relationship to the timing of the rebirth of Israel.

- b. **Finis Dake is one such commentator, he wrote:** “ This parable is so commonly interpreted as applying to the Jewish nation and its restoration that people in general believe that this is the true meaning of the parable. A close study will reveal that this is not the thought at all. The restoration of Israel was not inquired of by the disciples, and therefore, could not be the subject illustrated by the parable. This is just a simple illustration of the proximity of Christ's coming which is the same subject as in Mt. 24:4-31. "Now learn a parable (illustration) of the fig tree (Luke adds, and all the trees, 21:29); when his branch is yet tender and putteth forth leaves ye know (What?) that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things (all the above signs of Christ's coming) know that it (the second advent) is near, even at the doors." What could be more clear? We do not have to use this as the basis for the doctrine of the restoration of Israel. There are many plain passages which teach that. It is permissible to use this parable as an illustration of this truth or any other we may desire to illustrate with it, but never should we insist that it represents the Jews when there is no clue to indicate that. That all of Mt. 24:4-26 is fulfilled in one generation and that all the signs appear during a short period is further evident from the parable, for no tree puts forth leaves throughout the season.” (Dake, Revelation Expounded)

1. Note that while Finis Dake does not believe this passage refers to the restoration of Israel he does however note that this truth is otherwise recorded in scripture.

iv. **Prof (Dr) WA Liebenberg writes about:** “Which Tree represents Israel?

- a. Three trees particularly fit symbols of Israel. For in the Promised Land the ‘Vine’, the ‘Fig-tree’, and the ‘Olive’ stand for the fruitfulness of the land.

- b. The '**Vine**' is the *House of Israel* (Jer 2:21, 26) and '**Fig-tree**' is the *House of Judah* (Matt. 24:32-35). Both Houses are prefigures of their existence prior to the Messianic Era days and the pattern continue into the Messianic Era for these *Two Houses* when every man shall sit under his own 'Vine' and 'Fig-tree',
1. <sup>3</sup> "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>4</sup> But they (the Two Houses consisting as Twelve Tribes) shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree ; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of YHWH of hosts hath spoken it. (Micah 4:3-4).
- c. The **Fig-tree** is peculiarity because the blossoms of the fruit *appear before* the leaves. Naturally, therefore, we should look for fruit on a tree in full leaf. This accounts for why Y'shua cursed the Fig-tree that had on it nothing but leaves ([Matt. 18] vs 19-20). The presence of the leaves led Him to expect fruit, and when He found none He cursed the tree for its fruitlessness.
- d. Mark gives us another version of the incident (Mark 11:12-14). He says that Y'shua found nothing but leaves, "*for the time of figs was NOT YET*". Why then curse the tree? This is easily explained.
- e. The early fruit, or blossoms, appear in spring before the leaves open, on branches of the last year's growth, and the first ripe fruit is ready in June or earlier. The late figs grow on the new wood, keep appearing during the season, and are ripe from August onward. The unripe fruit of autumn often survives the winter and ripens when vegetation revives in the spring. It was about the 15th of Nissan (beginning of April) just before Passover when Y'shua cursed the Fig-tree, and the time of figs was not yet, because they did not ripen before June. But fig-trees which have retained their leaves through the winter usually have some of the last year's figs also, and as April was too early for new leaves or fruit, Y'shua knowing this, and seeing leaves on the tree, naturally expected to find some of last year's fruit, and when He found none He cursed the tree because of its deceptive character.
- f. The application of this incident to the people (not the faith) at the time in Israel is simple. Naturally Y'shua from their 'leafy profession' would expect to find fruit on the tree of their National life, and when He found none He cursed them, 'this group of legalistic Pharisees' for their hypocrisy (Matt 23:1-33).

- g. In the Parable of the 'Barren Fig-tree' (Luke 13:6-9) we have another picture of toward the legal element in the House of Judah. The 'Fig-tree' is the House of Judah. The 'Fig-tree' was planted in a 'Vineyard.' The *Vineyard* is the *Promised Land* with the 'Vine', the House of Israel also in the Vineyard. The owner of the Vineyard, Vine and of the Fig-tree is YHWH. He came in the person of His Son Y'shua, and for "three years" of Y'shua's ministry He had sought for *fruit* from the *House of Judah* and found none. He therefore decided to cut down the tree, that is, remove the House of Judah from the Vineyard, the Land of Israel.
- h. But the tree was not destroyed immediately, for intercession was made for it, and the day of grace was lengthened out for c. 40 years, and then the "axe-man" Titus, at the head of the Roman Army besieged Jerusalem in AD 70, and the House of Judah, the Fig-tree, was cut down and cast out of the Vineyard into the field of the world.
- i. But while the Fig-tree (House of Judah) was cut down and cast out of the Vineyard (Promised Land), its root was not destroyed, the axe was only laid at the root of the "Tree" (Luke 3:7-9), *the root itself was not killed or removed from the soil*. It is clear then from the Parable of the Fig-tree (Matt 24:32-34), that a *new tree will spring from the root*, that is, the House of Judah will revive, and when it shall reach the point where it shall "put forth leaves" then we shall have the "**FIG-TREE SIGN**" that Messiah's return is not far away. In this case the Fig-tree will *bear leaves before it bears fruit*, for the House of Judah is to be revived nationally in Israel before she is converted. The House of Judah would return first to the Promised Land before the House of Israel, this we saw happened in 1948 when Israel was declared a nation.
- j. Judah was the tribe to lead the way into the Promised Land in the first exodus (Num 10:13–14). The Jews of the House of Judah have also been the first to return to the land of Israel in our time (1948), exactly as was ordained in prophecy (Zech 12:7, Amos 9:11-15). The prophecies of the Bible state that the rest of the tribes, the House of Israel will follow after Judah.
- k. Israel as the **Olive-tree**: In Jer 11:16-17, the Commonwealth of Israel is called a 'Green Olive Tree', fair, and of goodly fruit, but is warned that for its idolatry its branches shall be broken off and 'Wild Olive Branches', foreigners coming into the Covenant, be grafted into their place.
- l. To conclude, the **Fig-tree** is the House of Judah which did not bear fruit when Y'shua came and therefore their members were cursed. A remnant however, such as the talmidim of Y'shua and numerous others in Y'shua's time and thereafter, eyes are opened and they are the ones that carry the Gospel of the Kingdom flag forwards together with the

lost sheep of the House of Israel who returned to the Covenant.

- m. So when discussing the signs of the times, signs showing that the return of Y'shua HaMashiach is near, and one refer to wars, earthquakes, plague-like diseases, the false Messiah's, etc., then critics usually say that these have always taken place. For as long as can be remembered, there have been earthquakes, plague-like diseases, wars, etc., and therefore it cannot be accredited to our last days on earth.
- n. It is true, except that these signs are occurring at a pace and magnitude that is unknown to man.
- o. There is however one undeniable sign of the end of time, a sign that will only happen once, never to be repeated. Once this has been fulfilled we will know, *without a doubt* , that we are experiencing our last days on earth and that the return of Messiah is upon us. The return of the nation of Israel to their homeland after being split-up internationally for their national and political restoration is the sign, eschatologists deem to be one of the most definite and obvious of all signs that we are living in the last days.
- p. Y'shua says "look at the fig tree..." The fig tree was cursed, unfertile and dry. It shows Israel in its world-wide dissipation the past two thousand years. The fig tree that sprouts again symbolises the national and political restoration of the nation of Israel (mainly the House of Judah that returned first), their return after being dissipated internationally and the recovery of their homeland. The Bible uses the fig tree to symbolize House of Judah restoring the nation of Israel.
- q. One Week before the crucifixion of Y'shua He prophesied (Luke 21:20-24) things that actually happened within the **mature generation** , within 40 years, after it was prophesied:
- r. Armies will besiege Jerusalem and destroy it (verse 20).
- s. It will be a terrible time of rage and revenge over Israel and its inhabitants (verse 22-23).
- t. The Israelites will fall under the edge of the sword and will be held prisoners of war and removed to all nations and thus be dissipated world-wide (verse 24).
- u. This prophecy of Y'shua linked up with many other prophets in the TaNaCh (OT) and their earlier prophecies of the world-wide dissipation of Israel. All these prophecies realized literally during the 40 year window up to 70 CE with the detail they were prophesied with, ±39

years after Y'shua expressed them.

- v. (These verses can also refer to the time during the Tribulation Period, as we see from Revelation chapters 6-19 as Jewish Eschatology is pattern.)” (Liebenberg, 2017) (outline added)
  - 1. Note: refer to Appendix for more details of the fulfillment of Jesus prophecy about the destruction of the temple that was fulfilled in 70 ad.
- w. **Prof (Dr) WA Liebenberg continued his commentary:** “This is what Y'shua said in Luke 21:24. This prophecy was literally fulfilled. The Jews were taken from their land in the cruelest way and scattered all over the world. This was when their final world-wide dissipation of Israel started. There are many examples recorded in the annals of history of the inhuman hatred showed towards the Jews.
- x. Theodore Hertzfel said:
  - 1. “There is a land without a people, and there is a people without a land”.
- y. For 1,800 years they had no national home, for 2,500 years they had no independent government. Still they existed as a nation with its own identity. It remains a puzzle that the ethnologists and folklorists cannot explain. According to the social enabling act which is noticeable in the origin and existence of a nation Israel had to be extinct long ago. Still they continued to exist as a nation with its own identity. Just as the bush burnt without being able to burn itself out, the fire of persecution burnt Israel the past two thousand years without being able to digest them. YHWH still has plans and a goal for Israel. There are covenants that were made with them by YHWH that still need to be fulfilled. YHWH still needs to fulfil these promises.
- z. In the same way that prophets prophesied that YHWH will scatter Israel across the world, prophecies were made that there would come a time when YHWH would recover Israel from their world-wide dissipation and bring them back to Israel to recover nationally and politically. Once this happens, it will be a sign:
  - 1. That the end of time is close;
  - 2. That the return of Y'shua is at hand;
  - 3. That YHWH will turn to them to fulfil His covenants; and

4. That YHWH is going to fulfil his end goal with Israel.
  - aa. The hope of one-day returning to their land burned in every Israelis heart for 1,900 years and was only realized in the twentieth century (Deut 30:4; Ezek 37:21; Jer 30:8,10).
  - bb. Theodore Hertzl was a Jew with a mission to legally establish a national homeland for Israel in Palestine and to assist them to return to Israel. With this mission in mind he established the Zionist movement with the first congress held on 29 August 1897 in Basel, Switzerland.
  - cc. Dr Chaim Weizman played another vital role. During World War I explosive stocks of Britain and the Allied Forces were depleted and they were faced with a crisis. Dr Weizman, a brilliant Jewish scientist, invented TNT and produced it for the British. If not for this, the British would probably have lost the war. When the British leaders wanted to reward him he merely said:
    1. "Give me not money, but instead Palestine as a national homeland for my ousted nation."
  - dd. Weizman convinced British leaders to promulgate the Balfour declaration on 2 November 1917. This led to Palestine being legally declared a national homeland of Israel. Approximately six weeks later, on 9 December 1917, British forces under the leadership of Lord Allenby freed Jerusalem from Turkish rule. He flew over Jerusalem with his airplane and threw pamphlets out with his name on to warn the Turks that he is going to invade the city. The Turks who never saw an airplane before and on top of that the word "Allenby" on the pamphlets made them believe it is their god "ALLA", which caused them to flee from the city without firing one single shot (Isaiah 31:5). Thus Palestine fell under British rule.
  - ee. At the end of World War I the Jews started to return to their homeland. Their numbers increased as follows:
    1. 1917 – 25,000
    2. 1922 – 83,000
    3. 1932 – 180,000
    4. 1935 – 300,000
    5. 1937 – 430,000

6. 1945 – 500,000
  7. 2000 – 5,000,000
  8. 2008 – 6,000,000 +” (Liebenberg, 2017) (outline added)
  9. Note: As of 2020 – 8,655,535
- ff. **Prof (Dr) WA Liebenberg continued his commentary:** “Over land, sea and through air transport they returned in great numbers. The fig tree once again showed signs of life.
- gg. World War I opened the land for Israel. The Second World War brought about terrible persecution for the Jews and they were driven from Europe and other countries to return to their land, Israel. Three years after World War II something happened, which to my view, should be noted as the most important date of this century...
- hh. Early on the morning of 14 May 1948 Britain lowered its flag, the Union Jack, in Israel. The British ended their rule over Israel, and sailed back to England. All through that day people arrived and gathered at the Rothchild Boulevard in Tel Aviv, Israel. The head rabbi, important leaders and journalists, etc. arrived to witness what would happen later that day.
- ii. At 16:00 David Ben Gurion called the meeting to order. The gathering got up to sing the Jewish anthem, the “Ha-Tikvah”. Whilst the last notes of the song died off, David Ben Gurion stood at the podium and in Hebrew read out the declaration of independence for the new state Israel. The gathering stood there clapping, some of them started crying profusely. The new state Israel was born in the Middle East.
- jj. For the first time in 2,500 years the Israelites once again had an independent self-governed land with:
1. Their own army;
  2. Their own navy;
  3. Their own constitution;
  4. Their own flag;
  5. Their own capital, Tel Aviv.” (Liebenberg, 2017) (outline added)

6. Note: In 2017, under President Donald Trump, on Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the capitol was officially recognized and declared as Jerusalem.
- kk. **Prof (Dr) WA Liebenberg continued his commentary:** "On 1 February 1949 the United Nations organization acknowledged the new country and in May the same year Israel become the 49<sup>th</sup> member of the United Nations. The Palestinians and Arabs were not happy with these events. At that stage the Israelis made up only 30% of the total population of Israel. The largest group was the Palestinians and they wanted the country for themselves. The British government however promised Israel to the Palestinians on 17 May 1939.
- ll. The Israelis would eventually fight four major wars to retain their land and to survive:
1. The war of independence – 15 May 1948.
  2. The Sinai-war – 29 October 1956.
  3. The Six-day war – 5 June 1967.
  4. The Yom Kippur war – 6 October 1973.
- mm. Two of these wars are of particular importance. The War of Independence of 15 May 1948. The new city was scarcely one day old when it was attacked from six sides in an attempt to eliminate it. Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi-Arabia ganged up and mobilized forty million soldiers to evict the Israelis from Palestine. The Israeli army could only gather 650,000 soldiers of whom many were woman and children. They didn't have enough weapons and the ones they had were the oldest ones thinkable. They had to fight against a majority with the most modern weaponry and technology. The Israelis dug trenches, armed children with broomsticks and hid them inside these trenches. The broomsticks were left to stick out of the trenches as if to make them look like the barrel of rifles from afar. The Lord once again argued for his people. Remarkable tales were told of:
1. Swarms of bees appearing out of nowhere attacking the enemy and driving them apart.
  2. Diarrhea and pestilence broke out amongst the enemy that prevented them from continued fighting.
  3. Massive, fictitious armies were heard and seen by the enemy, which they imagined they had to fight against. Many more such tales of

unnatural interference were told.

- nn. After seven months, Israel won the War of Independence of 1948.
- oo. With this war, Israel won a great section of Jerusalem, but they still did not have full control over the ancient city. The temple mountain where the temple of Solomon was located and the Western Wall, (the most treasured place for any Jew on earth), was still in possession of the Arabs, Jordanians, and UNO forces.
- pp. In the meantime Russia became a large and powerful world power and in exchange for oil supplies they supplied the Arab nations with modern and sophisticated weaponry resulting in the Arab nations becoming a powerful military power.
- qq. On 17 May 1967 three Arab countries namely Egypt, Syria and Jordan openly declared war against Israel but they did not attack immediately. According to statistics and logically speaking, the Israelis did not stand a chance of winning this war. On 6 June 1967 the Israelis initiated the war with a surprise attack, it became known as the Six-Day War. The Israeli air force wiped out the entire grounded Egyptian air force. After only four days two-thirds of the entire Egyptian military force was destroyed. The war ended after only six days and Israel expanded its territory from 8,000 square miles to 26, 000 square miles.
- rr. On the third day of the war the Israelis fought the enemy and evicted them street block by street block until they reached the Wailing Wall. Rabbi Ghoren blew the shofar (rams horn) at the Western Wall, rolled out a Book of the TaNaCh (OT) and read from it and then he prayed. For the first time in two thousand five hundred years the ancient city once again belonged to the Israelis. At 15:00 the then Minister of Defence, General Mosjè Dajan, arrived at the Western Wall and spoke these words:
  - 1. “We have returned to this, our Holiest of Holiest, never to leave it again”.
- ss. YHWH once again fought for his people. The fig tree blossomed.
- tt. So in August 1980 Jerusalem was declared as the eternal and undivided capital of Israel. A former mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kolleck, on occasion also said that his task was bigger than that of any other mayor in the world for his was to prepare Jerusalem for the return of the Messiah.

- uu. During the past six decades the Biblical prophecies over Israel has been fulfilled in an astonishing way and is still being fulfilled. The Israelites returned from the world-wide Diaspora and their land has been recovered nationally and politically. Out of the four wind directions, from 112 countries all over the world they return and in the year 2017 CE (when this was written) there were already approximately seven million Israelites in Israel.
  1. Since 1948 up until today more than 3 million have returned.
  2. Since 1991 to 1996 700,000 Jews entered Israel.
  3. During the 1990s some days they returned at a rate of 800–1000 people per day.
  4. There are signs of the Israelites once again being persecuted in various countries, which forced them to return in even larger numbers.
  5. Israel is being irrigated, reworked, planted and built-up. The fig tree is blooming . This is a clear sign that we are living in the last days.
- w. When one carefully examines the history of Israel one will notice that twice before they returned to their land Israel they brought about a blessing for the world and its people.
  1. The first time out of Egypt they gave the world the Torah.
  2. The second time out of Babylon they gave the world a Moshiach.
  3. The third time they will return from their world-wide dissipation they will give the world a King, Y'shua HaMashiach, the King of all kings who is going to return to Jerusalem to rule the world (Zech 14:4, 9).” (Liebenberg, 2017) (outline added)

v. **What Generation:**

a. **The generation that will see the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

1. First thing we need to understand is where this verse falls in the sequence of the Olivet Discourse. It occurs at the end of the Tribulation when Christ returns with the armies of heaven and the saints to the Battle of Armageddon. The Glorious appearing of our Lord at His second coming to the earth.

- b. **Concerning “this generation”** Finis Dake writes: “Are these things fulfilled in one particular generation? That they are fulfilled in one and the last generation in this age is clear from the following:
1. "The days of Noah" refer to one generation only, Mt. 24:37-39; Gen. 7:1.
  2. That one generation only is referred to in these chapters is stated in Mt. 24:34, and clearly taught in the parable of the fig tree...
  3. Jesus plainly promised that some would escape "all these things" and such could not be true if they were being fulfilled throughout this age.
  4. Some will "endure to the end" and such could not be unless those who endure were not living at the end of the age.
  5. The abomination of desolation will be set up in the middle of the Week, or three and one-half years before the end of the age so the first nine signs immediately preceding this can easily be fulfilled in the same generation, Mt. 24:15. (Dake, Revelation Expounded)
    - a. The signs that must be fulfilled before the mid-point of the Tribulation period includes: (Finis Dake’s outline)
      1. Deceptions (Mat\_24:4-5, Mat\_24:11, Mat\_24:24)
      2. False Christs (Mat\_24:5, Mat\_24:23-26)
      3. Wars and rumors of wars (Mat\_24:6-7)
      4. Famines (Mat\_24:7; Rev\_6:5-6)
      5. Pestilences (Mat\_24:7; Rev\_6:8)
      6. Earthquakes (Mat\_24:7; Rev\_6:12-17)
      7. Anti-semitism (Mat\_24:9; Mar\_13:9, Mar\_13:13)
      8. Offenses (Mat\_24:10; cp. Mat\_18:1-10)
      9. Betrayals (Mat\_24:9; Mar\_13:12)
      10. Hatred (Mat\_24:10; 2Ti\_3:1-9)

11. False prophets (Mat\_24:11, Mat\_24:24; Rev\_13:1-18)
12. Lawlessness abounding (Mat\_24:12)
13. Love decreasing (Mat\_24:12-13; 2Ti\_3:1-17)
14. Increased missionary work (Mat\_24:14)

(Dake, Dake's Study Notes)

- b. Note: signs 1-6 above are called the “beginning of sorrows” This is the start of the labor pains. While these have been going on throughout history it is only in this generation that we see all these things occurring at the same time and with greater frequency.
- c. **In lesson 21 we looked at a teaching titled “What Time Is It?” from Pastor Mark Biltz of El Shaddai Ministries.** In that study he related the following details about a generation:  
(Note: these are bullet points from his teaching)
  1. We know that it talks about as in the days of Noah.
    - a. Genesis 6:3 Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.”
    - b. From the time he started building the boat to when it was in that generation was considered to be 120 years.
    - c. When you look at 1897 and add 120 that takes you to 2017 and this is past so that cannot be the Generation.
  2. Let's look at Genesis... speaking about Abraham. Here a generation seems to be 100 years not 120.
    - a. Gen 15:13-16 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; and also, that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge; and afterward shall they come out with great substance. But thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. And in the fourth generation they shall come back hither; for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet full.'
    - b. 400 years and it's four generations - here a generation is 100 years...

- c. Balfour declaration was on Nov 2nd, 1917...
  - d. It was December 11th of 1917 when General Allenby entered Jerusalem and that was Kislev 26th during Hanukkah.
  - e. From 1917 you had a hundred years that takes you to 2017 also.
  - f. ... that hundred-year generation has been fulfilled.
3. In Matthew 24:29-35 Jesus is talking about the generation tied to the parable of the fig tree...
- a. Deuteronomy is the book of Revelation of the Torah. As a matter of fact, it is the Song of Moses we hear about in Revelation and is being sung...
  - b. In Deuteronomy 30:1-2... God is telling them about all the blessings if they obey and the curses if they do not obey. Then He says: “When all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I set before you and call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you, and then you return to the Lord your God and you obey His voice, according to all I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart with all your soul.”
  - c. Look what happens in verse 3? “Then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes He'll have mercy on you, He will gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you.”
    - 1. You know what is amazing about this verse? This verse is the 5708th verse of the Torah.
  - d. It so happens the year 5708 was 1948 the very year that that verse was fulfilled.
  - e. This is when God had mercy and gathered them from all the nations where they've been scattered...
  - f. Psalms 90:10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
  - g. 80 years from 1948/1949 takes you to that same year 2028/2029. (Biltz, 2021) (outline and summary added)
  - h. Note that this date is still in the future and could very well be the Biblical generation that Jesus referred to.

Could it be that the biblical year that occurs in 2028/2029 be the year we fly away?

**d. Dr. Liebenberg confirms: “The Various Generations in Scripture**

1. Three types of 'generations' are mentioned in Scripture:

- a. Gen 6:3 (NIV): Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."
- b. Num 32:13 (NIV): The LORD's anger burned against Israel and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone.
- c. Psalm 90:10 (NIV): Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. “ (Liebenberg, 2017) (Outline added)

**e. Dr. Liebenberg writes more concerning this final generation: “When will this generation start and finish?**

1. **...Theory 1:**

- a. It starts in 1948 and expires in 2018 – 70 years later.
- b. It starts in 1948 and expires in 2028 – 80 years later.

2. **Theory 2:**

- a. It starts in 1967 when Jerusalem was taken and expires in 2037 – 70 years later.
- b. It starts in 1967 when Jerusalem was taken and expires in 2047 – 80 years later.

3. **Theory 3:**

- a. It starts in 1980 when Jerusalem was declared the undividable capital of Israel and expires in 2050 – 70 years later.

- b. It starts in 1980 when Jerusalem was declared the undividable capital of Israel and expires in 2060 – 80 years later.

4. **Theory 4:**

- a. It starts in 2017 when Jerusalem was officially accepted as Israel's capital and expires in 2087 – 70 years later.
- b. It starts in 2017 when Jerusalem was declared the undividable capital of Israel and expires in 2097 – 80 years later. (Liebenberg, 2017) (outline added)

5. Notes:

- a. Keep in mind that Israel became a nation in 1948/1949 so the dates in the theories above could be +1 year. i.e. Theory 1-b would be 2028/2029.
  - 1. This is interesting based upon the study we had previously from Pastor Mark Biltz showing that Rosh Hashanah 2022 is the start of a new Shemitah cycle. Add 7 years and we will have 2029.
- b. Obviously, Jesus has not appeared at His second coming so Theory 1-a is not a possibility. However, the others all remain viable.

c. **In our next studies:**

- i. We will dig a little deeper concerning the possible timing of the Time of Jacobs trouble (The Tribulation) and the Second Coming.
- ii. We will finalize our study the topic on the Days of Noah and Lot. This will finalize our study on the Olivet Discourse.
- iii. After this we will return to Revelation chapter 6.

2. **Appendix: Prof (Dr) WA Liebenberg writes about the destruction of Israel in 70 ad.**

- a. The year 70 CE is written in thick, black letters in the annals of Israel's history. It was a year of terrible rage, wrath and trauma for the Israelites (House of Judah Jews mostly with minor House of Israel Tribe members) and their city, Jerusalem. It all happened as follows:
- b. In that year Israel and Jerusalem were under the control of the Romans. Under the leadership of Judas of Galilee 18,000 Jews rebelled against Roman control. The roman emperor of that time, Vespasianus, gave his son Titus instructions to suppress this rebellion in Jerusalem. It was during Passover celebrations when Titus, together with 54,000 Roman soldiers surrounded and besieged Jerusalem. Almost three million Jews were trapped within the walls of Jerusalem. The siege lasted four months. It was a terrible time of fear for Jerusalem and its inhabitants. Famine and pestilence broke out in the city and thousands died. The bodies that were usually buried outside the city were thrown over the city walls on the side of the Kidron-valley. Approximately 600,000 bodies were thrown over the wall.
- c. Josephus, the historian, wrote that the famine was so bad that the Jewish women slaughtered and ate their own children. Some of the meat was sent to their husbands who stood guard on the city walls. YHWH prophesied this two thousand years before (Deut 28:53). Cries of terror could be heard day and night in Jerusalem as mothers realized that their children were missing. Children often fell prey to murder and robbery gangs who patrolled the streets of Jerusalem looking for food.
- d. Y'shua prophesied these sufferings over Jerusalem on his way to Golgotha when the woman of the city wept at His feet (Luke 23:28-29).
- e. Many Jews who could no longer bear the anguish and suffering in the city swallowed their most prized possessions and tried to escape via the city wall at night. When the Romans caught them and cut them open, they discovered the hidden treasures. They then cut open each and every Israelite fugitive in search of these treasures. In one night more than two thousand fugitives were cut open. It is told that Titus one day went to the Kidron-valley to observe the bodies that were thrown over the wall. When this hardened Roman officer-in-command saw the rotting flesh flowing into the Kidron-valley deeply felt moans and groans of anguish welled up from within him.
- f. The Roman "stone throwers" stoned the gates and walls of Jerusalem day after day with huge rocks. After four months they finally broke through by their feet and smashed against the walls and floors until they were dead, exactly as Y'shua prophesied (Luke 19:44).
- g. There was not a wall or a floor in the city that was not covered with blood. The blood of the Jews flowed in little streams towards the lowest lying gate and then out of the city. After seeing all the bloodshed Titus threw his arms in the air and said: "Let their blood not be on us." But the Jews cried out earlier in Matt 27:24-25 when they crucified

Y'shua, "Let His blood be on us and our children". This was literally fulfilled during this war with Titus. Thousands of Jews were crucified, three rows wide around the walls of Jerusalem. Approximately 1,1 million died. The city was burned down and the beautiful temple of Herod was destroyed, just the way Y'shua prophesied in Matt 24:2.

- h. After the fall of Jerusalem 100,000 Jews were captured and bound with ropes around their necks. They were shipped to Italy, Spain, Rome and Egypt where they were sold as slaves. They were however too thin and no one wanted to buy them, nobody even placed an offer on them as was prophesied (Deut 28:68). (Liebenberg, 2017) (outline added)

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