Luke Chapter 21

V: 1-4 The last verse of the previous chapter described the scribes as those who would *"devour widow's houses…"*. Ripping off, taking advantage of the widows.

- Now He uses a widow as an example of devotion and sacrificial giving.

Mark 12:41 "Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury:…"

- Jesus sat off to the side and observed *"how"* people gave; not how much but how in the sense of "in what way" – the issue wasn't how much, but what was their attitude in giving.

- Jesus noted that some gave quite a bit, but that wasn't what impressed Him.

Jesus cautioned His followers about how they gave:

Matthew 6:1-2 "[1]Take heed that you do not your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. [2]Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward."

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "[6]But this I say, He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [7]So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

- This widow's offering wasn't out of her abundance, it was out of her poverty, her giving was sacrificial. (2 mites = 1 farthing = 1/4th of a cent)

David declared:

2 Samuel 24:24 "Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver."

- This widow's giving expressed her faith in the Lord, and her reliance upon the Lord to meet her needs.

- She declared with her actions that God was worthy of all that she had, and that it was in fact truly His.

- The rich who had given of their abundance, or the scribes who prayed for a show did so to a religious system that would soon pass from the scene.

- This woman gave sacrificially to the God of heaven who would appreciate and value her sacrifice for eternity to come.

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

V: 5 Matthew's Gospel records that this conversation takes place as they are leaving the Temple.

- Of the many places that Jesus appeared after His death and resurrection, the Temple was not one of them. (The Glory had departed)

When Phineas' wife heard all these things she began to give birth to a child:

1 Samuel 4:21 **"**Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "the glory has departed from Israel!" Because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father in law and her husband."

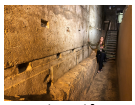
- The disciples were taken back by the size and grandeur of the Temple building itself. (Robert Schuller / Crystal Cathedral / (New Age feel) benches / brick / trees / plaques everywhere)

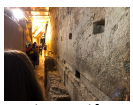
V: 6 Technically the temple was still under construction. The Temple had been 46 years in the making and was still not complete. The stones were very large, hard to imagine it all being destroyed.

- Many of the stones were 40' X 20' X 10', weighing up to 160 tons. They were fitted together perfectly without mortar, many were covered with marble and gold.







- This was a shocking statement, but He is referring to the temple's destruction in 70 AD.

- This was all fulfilled within 40 yrs. By Emperor Vespasian and his son General Titus with 3-4 Roman legions.

- Josephus records that after the destruction / siege it was "just as though there had never been a building there."

- The current Western Wall / whaling wall is actually the old retaining wall to the foundation of the temple. This current location is approximately 70' above the original ground level / Tyropian valley that Jesus walked through. This is because all the stones and rubble filled up the valley to that point, some of which were later used to build portions of old Jerusalem, including the temple mount area.

- This had all been prophesied before the birth of Jesus:

Daniel 9:26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined."

Micah 3:12 "Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest."

- Jesus is helping His disciples "connect" with the Word of God. It's a funny phenomenon to read the Word of God, passing on by, then sometime later to re-read the same passage and suddenly grasp the significance of it where before we didn't – that is what is happening to the disciples.

Jesus is challenging the disciples. What will they do when the Temple is gone? What are the things that we cling to, what are the central things in our lives, what will we do if these things were to be removed? Will we be moved from our faith?

V: 7 Two questions in Luke, 3 in Matthew:

1. **When will these things be?** (The destruction of the Temple / City.)
2. **What will the sign be of these things?** (The end of the rule of the gentiles.)
3. (Matthew) What will be the sign of your coming again? ("in your kingdom," they thought this would be immediate.)

- These questions are answered through what is later referred to as the Olivet discourse recorded in both Matthew & Luke.

V: 8 When will these things be? It will be a time of deception and lies: Many will come in the name of Jesus or claiming to be Jesus.

John 8:31-32 "31If you continue in My Word, then are you My disciples indeed; 32and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make free."

2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show yourself approved of God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Acts 17:11 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

1 John 4:1-3 "1Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2By

this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, [3]and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."

Colossians 2:8, 18. "[8]Beware lest any man cheat / spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." - "[18]Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,"

- Many shall seek to come in the place of Jesus, but none will have His credentials.

1. Fulfilling prophecy.
2. Doing signs and wonders that validated His ministry.
3. Absolute obedience to and consistency with the word of God.
4. Willing to die sacrificially; a substitutionary death for the sheep.

V: 9 Wars & commotions don't mean it's the end of the age, only <u>the beginning of the signs</u>.

Psalm 27:1-3 "[1]The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? [2]When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. [3]Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident."

Psalm 46:1-2 "[1]God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2]Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried in to the midst of the sea;"

V: 10-11 War, strife, etc. are all the result of rejecting the Prince of Peace.

- Nations against nations, world wide state of war: WWI & WWII. The current war on terror & war on drugs 29-32 armed conflicts
- Famines, mostly created and manipulated.
- Pestilence, HIV / AIDS, bird flu, swine flu / Covid / next?
- Earthquakes, frequency on the increase both in numbers and severity. Arkansas, NY, Midwest, tornados in Northern Arizona.
- Storms, hurricanes, tidal waves, etc. Katrina, tsunami Thailand, Haiti.
- El Nino



Romans 8:22 "For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now."

- These are all <u>Pre-cursors</u> to Revelation Ch. 6 – seals opened:

1st seal - white horse / rider conquering
2nd seal - red horse take peace, kill one another.
3rd seal – black horse – famine.
4th seal – pale horse – pestilence.

- The beginning of the end, not necessarily the end itself.

- Great signs from heaven? Solar flare / EMP?

Matthew 24:29-30 "29Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30The the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

V: 12-13 Before all that – martyrdom. It will be for a witness and a testimony.

- Applies primarily to the Jews, but there is a dual application for us today and for the church in general.

Matthew 5:10-11 "10Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake."

2 Timothy 3:1-5 "1But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy 3unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"

"… an occasion for testimony."

- It sure was for Paul, testifying to Agrippa, Festus, & Nero. And all the saints recorded in Foxe's book of martyrs, and those men in orange jumpsuits in Libya, Syria, Sudan, Kenya, North Korea, Iran, and so many distant and far away places.

V: 14-15 When those days come and you are brought before the magistrates and rulers – let me speak through you.

Matthew 10:16-20 "16Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. 17But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. 18You will be brought before governors and kings <u>for My sake</u> as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19But <u>when</u> they deliver you up, do not worry about how or

what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; [20]for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

V: 16-19 This is seemingly speaking of that future time when there will be a great division over the issue of Jesus, possibly when the Anti-Christ will persecute the Jews, or perhaps that time leading up to it, like right now.

Jesus is referring to a prophecy from Micah:

Micah 7:6 "For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother, daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own household."

1 Corinthians 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

- The point of division is always the Word of God, actually Jesus Himself.
- Israel is the latest point of division, but even that goes back to the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

"[18]But not a hair of your head will be lost."

- Many a martyr have sacrificed their lives for the glory of God over the centuries, but God knows all the details, including where their hairs ended up.

- One of the reasons why this appears to point to the end times is the language that is consistent with the book of Revelation - "enduring to the end":

Revelation chapters 2-3 Each of the 7 churches is to to endure to the end.

Revelation 2:7 (Ephesus) "He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; to him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Revelation 2:11 (Smyrna) "He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; he that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death."

Revelation 2:17 (Pergamos) "He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; to him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and

will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows except he that receives it."

Revelation 2:25-26 (Thyatira) "[25]But hold fast what you have till I come. [26]And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations."

Revelation 3:5 (Sardis) "He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white garments; and I will not blot out his name from the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels."

Revelation 3:12 (Philadelphia) "He who overcomes will I make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name."

Revelation 3:21 (Laodicea) "To him that overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

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1 John 5:4-5 "[4]For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that overcomes the world - our faith. [5]Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

V: 19 Be patient, be self controlled, disciplined, and know that you are saved:

2 Peter 1:10 "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for it you do these things you will never stumble:"

- Batten down the hatches, be ready, prepare yourselves because the storm is coming.
- Stay close to God, abide in Him, make sure that you're walking in the Spirit.
- Abide in His Word, be fervent in prayer, be in fellowship, find a way to serve Him, and testify of Him.

Proverbs 3:5-7 "[5]Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; [6]in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. [7]Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil."

V: 20-24 This paragraph is unique to Luke's gospel, there is no parallel in Matthew or Mark even though this passage is generally parallel to the Olivet discourse.

- Both Matthew and Mark look farther ahead to the time of the tribulation when the abomination of desolation will take place leading to the persecution of the Jews.

- This passage however refers to events that would take place much sooner, 40 years after the crucifixion when in 70 AD there would be a "dress rehearsal" to those future events described in Matthew and Mark when the Anti-Christ would take control Jerusalem and the Temple, and demand to be worshipped as god.

- So, presently, Jesus said: when you see armies (Roman troops) setting the siege surrounding Jerusalem, setting up camp on Mt. Scopus and on the Mount of Olives, know that the destruction of the Temple is at hand.

- They would indeed later see the Roman troops gathering around Jerusalem in August of 66 AD, the siege prior to the destruction, then the destruction, but the end was not yet.

- Interesting to note that the Gospel of Luke was written in approximately 60 AD.

- Eusebius (Christian historian & leader) records (233 years later) that not a single Christian was killed during the siege and conquest of Jerusalem. The Christians took the Words of Jesus literally and when they saw the Roman armies begin to surround Jerusalem, they left the city and were subsequently spared because they took heed to the Word of God.

Proverbs 27:12 "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; the simple pass on and are punished."

2 Peter 2:9 "… the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."

- Josephus, a Jewish / secular historian records that the Romans initially surrounded the city, and began preparing for the siege in 66 AD, then for unknown reasons withdrew, then later came back and eventually attacked the city and destroyed both the Temple and Jerusalem in 70 AD. Josephus adds that the "Zealots" had taken control of the city and were purging the "un-faithful" and killed a great number of the Jews.

- It appears that by the time the Romans actually laid siege to Jerusalem the Christians had taken heed to God's Word and fled to the areas of Jordan, Syria, and other places away from Jerusalem.

Proverbs 8:32, 34 "[32]Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep My ways." - "[34]Blessed is the man who listens to me…"

Proverbs 13:13 "He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded."

V: 21 If you're in the vicinity, Judea or the surrounding area - flee. Don't come to Jerusalem, flee for safety.

- At that time the church was centered in Jerusalem, and we know that the Apostles escaped the destruction of Jerusalem, we know that because history records that they all died and were martyred in other locations. John being the youngest Apostle lived another 25 or so years after the destruction of Jerusalem, having escaped and was eventually marooned on the Island of Patmos by Caesar after un-successfully trying to kill in in boiling oil. Eventually according to church tradition the Apostle John died of old age and was buried in Ephesus.

- Josephus records the horrors of the siege and the depths of degradation that many within the city resorted to and that more Jews were killed by their fellow Jews than by the Romans themselves.

Proverbs 27:12 "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; the simple pass on and are punished."

Revelation, describing that Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen:

Revelation 18:4 "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."'

(Ecclesia)

V: 22 The days of vengeance referring to the vengeance of God against the nation for rejecting His Son.

- Remember when Pilate washed his hands because of the blood of this innocent man, the people / priests responded:

Matthew 27:25 "Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children."

- Similarly, the great tribulation is referred to as the time of "Jacob's trouble" (**Jeremiah 30:7**) referred to here at the "days of vengeance", when the remainder of God's judgment against the nation of Israel is poured out.

"... that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

- Speaking of the prophesies of Jerusalem's destruction, and Israel's judgment to come.

Isaiah 34:8 "For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion."

Daniel 9:26-27 "[26]And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. [27]Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

V: 23 When the Romans entered the city, none were spared – it was wholesale slaughter, men, women, and children.

- Those that were captured were taken back to Rome to either be sold as slaves or to be consumed in the "games".

- Matthew's Gospel says pretty much the same thing at this point, but adds one more piece of information:

Matthew 24:20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath…"

- Meaning He's speaking to the Jews at that time, and to the Jews in the future.

V: 24 Josephus records that the Romans killed over 1 million people in the siege of Jerusalem and that over 100,000 were taken captive when Titus captured the city.

- The times of the Gentiles began with Nebuchadnezzar when he conquered the city, lasting through the Roman conquests up until June of 1967 when the Israeli's captured the city and brought it once again under sovereign Jewish control.

- The *"times of the Gentiles"* being fulfilled, meaning who has control of Jerusalem is different that the "fullness of the Gentiles"

Romans 11:25 "For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion; that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

- The fullness of the Gentiles is when the last Gentile believer receives Jesus and enters into the Kingdom of God - which triggers the rapture of the church.

- Then not long after that if not immediately, the 70th week of Daniel commences, the great tribulation.

V: 25-28 The conditions leading to the return of the Lord.

V: 25 This goes back to verse 11 – great earthquakes in diverse places, famines, pestilences; fearful sights, and great signs from heaven. Things leading up to the great tribulation.

- Then there is the great tribulation itself:

- There is incredible constancy in scriptures – here Jesus speaks of the signs in the sun, moon, and stars – and in other places is speaks of the same things.

Revelation 6:12 "I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood;"

Isaiah 13:11 "And I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible."

Revelation 6:13-14 "13And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place."

- Great cataclysmic events taking place here on the earth, mountains being moved, islands disappearing, terrible times!

V: 26-27 Men's hearts failing them.

Matthew 24:29-30 "29Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

- We don't know what this sign will be, but it will terrify the inhabitants of the earth at that time.

Revelation 6:15-17 "15And the kings of the earth, and the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16and said to the mountains and rocks, "fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Isaiah 13:6-9 "6Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a mighty destruction from the Almighty. 7Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt. 8And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall

take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames. [9]Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it."

Joel 2:10, 30-31 "[10]The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble; the sun and moon grow dark, and the stars diminish their brightness." – "[30]And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. [31]The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD."

"[27b]… coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

- Possibly a reference to the clouds in the sky and to the cloud of witnesses: (probably both.)

Hebrews 12:1 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, …"

Colossians 3:4 "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

Revelation 19:11,14 "[11]Now I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and make war." – "[14]And the armies in heaven clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses."

V: 28 When these things begin to come to pass, look up – pay attention – today could be the day.

- As these coming events begin to cast their shadow, we know and believe that the Lord's return is right around the corner.
- As believers we know that this time is approaching, we're looking for Jesus, not for signs.
- There are those who either ignore or ridicule the doctrine of the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ, after all the church has been waiting for over 2,000 years.
- Peter answers this accusation: **2 Peter 3:3-12** (turn to / read)
- The time is getting close!

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 "[51]Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - [52]in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last

trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 "16For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ will rise first: 17Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

"Now when all these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws near."

V: 29-31 Israel is referred to as a "fig tree" several times in scriptures.

- Israel is symbolized at different times by three different types of fruit bearing trees; the grape vine, the fig tree, and the olive tree.

- The vine and the olive tree pre-figure the millennium where according to Micah.

Micah 4:4 "But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken."

- **The vine is symbolic of Israel's spiritual privilege.**
- **The fig tree is symbolic of Israel's national privilege.**
- **The olive tree is symbolic of Israel's religious privilege.**

- In this parable the fig tree is used to represent the nation of Israel.

Jeremiah 8:13 "I will surely consume them, says the Lord: no grapes shall be on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things I have given them shall pass from them."

Hosea 9:10 "I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the first ripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved."

Olivet discourse - the sign of the fig tree:

Matthew 24:32-35 "32Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33So you also, when you see all these things, know that it (He) is near - at the doors! 34Assuredly, I say to you, this generation ("Race" / Jews) will by no means pass away till all these things be fulfilled / take place. 35Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

- The fig tree is a fit symbol of Israel. It is peculiar in that the blossoms of the fruit appear before the leaves. Naturally, therefore, a fig tree that is full of leaves should have fruit on it.

- By the condition of the fig tree we can know the season, what season we're in.

- Wars, rumors or wars, earthquakes, pestilence, etc., all clues.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 "[1]But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: [2]For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3]unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, [4]traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, [5]having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"

Seeing what is happening all around us, we need to be like the sons of Issachar:

1 Chronicles 12:32 "of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do…"

V: 32 This is a much debated and discussed verse. Is a generation like from father to son, is it 20 years, 40 years, 100 years?

"This generation" – could refer to the Jews generally – who have not passed away despite the worlds efforts to the contrary, or the fact that they didn't have a homeland for 2,000 years.

- If you want to know that God is real, simply look to the Jew.

"This generation" could also refer to the generation that sees "the budding of the fig tree" - the re-birth of the nation of Israel in 1948. My dad's generation or thereabouts that got to see that and are presently dying off. Or perhaps those who witnessed the liberation of Jerusalem in 1967, no longer trodden under the feet of the Gentiles.

- It's un-certain, the debate goes on.

V: 33 Jesus is affirming the certainty of God's word, and that these things shall all come to pass.

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withers, the flower fades: but the Word of our God stands for ever."

V: 34 Warning – be careful: that you don't get caught up in worldly things – over indulging ourselves, caught up and distracted by the worldly things that keep us from walking with the Lord.

1 John 2:15-17 "15Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17And the world is passing away, and the lust of it: but he that does the will of God abides forever."

- Don't be caught by surprise – stay focused.

V: 35 Like a snare it will catch you if you're not paying attention.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 "3You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4No man engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."

V: 36 Watch, be vigilant, praying that we would be worthy to escape these things.

"… to stand before the Son of man."

- That when all this is happening on earth, you'll be standing before the Son of man in heaven, gathered around His throne worshipping him – as opposed to experiencing the terror of the tribulation.

2 Timothy 4:5 "But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

V: 37-38 Still teaching daily in the Temple, then camping out in the Mount of Olives.

- Time around the camp fire, eating, talking, teaching / learning – being prepared.
- Early in the morning all the people came to hear Him.

Proverbs 8:17 "I love those who love me, and those who seek me early will find Me."