

The Lord Shall Suddenly Come to the Temple

JESUS, the MESSIAH, makes HIS triumphal entry into Jerusalem

The Temple

Herod the Great, who ruled from 37 BC to 4-3 BC was not satisfied with the temple built by the prophet Ezra because it was the same size as Solomon's. So, in order to feed his passion for grandeur and to immortalize his name, Herod rebuilt the temple, doubling its size! He added the monumental stoga - a grand hall which was built in the style of a basilica with a central nave and side aisles divided by four rows of 40 columns, each monolith topped by Corinthian capitals. Josephus called the stoga *more deserving of mention than any under the sun*. Herod doubled the *size* of the outer courtyard and enclosed it with enormous limestone walls, some of these stones weighing over 80 tons. The entrances were a series of beautiful gates, adorned with magnificent stairways and bridges. The disciples of JESUS were awed with *the buildings of the temple* (Matthew 24:1-ff) and their beauty!

But

Isaiah 66:1-2

Psalms 127:1!

Mark 11:1-11

V: 11 (A) GOD had promised HE would come to Jerusalem to save HIS people. Isaiah 35:4ff. 62:11-12, Gen. 49:10-11, Zech 9:9 and Luke 19:10

(B) GOD had promised HE would come to HIS temple in Jerusalem (Malachi 3:1), HE would come from the east (Ezekiel 43:1-2) and that HE would shut the east gate HE entered by (Ezekiel 44:1-3).

(C) GOD had promised that the MESSIAH (*The Lord*) would come to the temple (Malachi 3:1) to judge the results of the Covenant! Malachi 3:5

**(D) And so - *When HE had looked round about upon all things* -
What's your judgment, Lord? What do you think? No comment!**

(E) *And now the eventide was come, HE went out...* The end of the old day - Israel could have repented and accepted her MESSIAH - but - she did not!

THE PARABLE of THE BARREN FIG TREE

Mark 11:12-14

V: 12 What food did JESUS, the MESSIH, hunger for? Luke 4:4, John 4:34-35.

V: 13 (A) Israel - the fig tree. Jeremiah 8:1ff, 5-13, 24:1-10 and Hosea 2:12, 9:10 Leaves accompany but usually precede the fruit. Either way, leaves are an outward sign of fruit!

(B) LORD, what's your judgment after looking round about the temple and upon all things? No fruit!

(C) *Nothing but leaves* - the outward forms - leaves had become more important to them than fruit. Matthew 23:27

(D) Israel practiced all the right rules but righteous judgment, mercy and faith. Matthew 23:23

(E) Israel substituted daily faith and trust in GOD for ritualism, ceremonialism and formalism.

GOD has called us to fruitfulness. Matthew 7:15-20

V: 14 (A) *No man eat fruit of thee hereafter, forever.*

A Divine Curse (Jeremiah 11:1-3) upon Israel.

(B) *And the disciples heard it* but GOD has other plans for them -Isaiah 65:15 - A New Covenant! Jeremiah 31:31-34

THE TEMPLE CLEANSED

Mark 11:15-18

V: 15-16 (A) Satan often had been successful in recruiting the priesthood to pollute GOD'S temple.

II Chronicles 36:14, Jeremiah 7:30 & Ezekiel 8:15.

(B) GOD had promised that the MESSIAH, when HE came to the temple to judge the covenant (Malachi 3:1, 5),

HE would cleanse the temple at HIS coming. Malachi 3:2-3

(C) So the suffering servant - Israel's MESSIAH - *SET HIS face like a flint* (Isa 50:4-7, Ezek 3:7-11, Luke 9:51) to complete HIS mission to Israel!

V: 17 (A) Satan often had been successful in recruiting the priesthood to pollute God's temple. The temple was to be a house of prayer (Isaiah 56:7) for *men ought always to pray.* (Luke 18:1ff) We have an available GOD!

(B) *Ye have made it a den of thieves* - Snakes live in dens - What a description of the religious leaders of Israel. Jeremiah 7:8-12

V: 18 (A) JESUS knew what the result of HIS zeal would be. Psalms 69:9 and 20-21, cf Matthew 27:34 and John 19:29-30.

(B) The people were astonished at HIS doctrine, as they had always been (Matthew 7:28-29) because HIS words are not natural but supernatural! John 6:63 and 12:48

V: 19 Again, it's evening and Israel will not repent and accept their MESSIAH.

THE PARABLE of THE WITHERED FIG TREE

Mark 11:20-24

V: 20 (A) The fig tree Israel has already produced- the only Branch worthy of acceptance to GOD, the MESSIAH. Isaiah 11:1-2ff, Jeremiah 23:5-6 & 33:15, Zechariah 3:8 & 6:12-13 & Isaiah 53:2ff

(B) So the Divine Curse of V:14 has come upon Israel. Job 18:16-18, 11:1-20 & 32

V: 21 Poor Peter - he just can't put it all together. Romans 9:1-8, 10:1-4,

V: 22 *Have faith in GOD* - the lacking figs of Israel!

V: 23 (A) Had Israel had faith in the GOD of her covenant, all things were possible for her. Deuteronomy 28:1-15, 30:1-20

(B) *But without faith it is impossible to please HIM ...*Hebrews 11:6

V: 24 (A) We should desire what GOD desires. II Peter 3:9 The challenge to us as Christians is to bear fruit - both souls (John 15:1-8) and Christian character (John 15:12-14, Galatians 5:22-25

(C) The reproduction of our faith in others is a test of our fruit (1 John 1:3) as was seen in the early church, even during times of trouble. Acts 8:1-4

TODAY

(A) Christianity bears much fruit.

(B) Christianity if full of pew fillers who have sat there all their lives and can't point to a single precious soul they have helped live forever.