

DISPENSATIONALISM (32)

This will be an amazing sign. All Jewish believers from all ages will be rounded up by angels and transported to Israel to receive the Kingdom. Jews from the O.T. economy will be raised; Jews from the N. T. Church Age and Jews on earth from the Tribulation will all be taken by angels to the land. This will be similar to what God did with Philip individually (**Acts 8:26, 39-40**).

Now clearly one of the things that is established that will happen when these angels gather the elect is there will be some major negative wrath judgments that will immediately and literally put people into hell. Such texts as Matthew 13:41-42, 49 and II Thessalonians 1:7-10 makes that point very clear. **This is important to see because these judgments have nothing to do with the Church.**

The next section features some parables that illustrate these things and what must be clearly kept in mind is that this is a context of Israel and the Kingdom. Nothing in this context is aimed at the Church.

SECTION #5 – A series of parables and illustrations concerning the coming Kingdom for Israel. 24:32-25:30

It is clear from these parables that for Israel entrance into the Kingdom will be merit based. Specifically the merit will be in believing that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and that He will return to give Israel her Kingdom. This theme will dominate the 144,000 Jewish evangelists who will be taking this Kingdom gospel to the entire world. So to not believe them or not prepare when you actually see the preceding signs is foolish. **Let me state here as clearly as possible, this context has nothing to do with the Church or with the Grace Gospel.**

Parable #1 - The parable of the fig tree to teach watchfulness and Israel's survival. 24:32-35

Verses 32-33 could not be plainer. When Israel sees the series of signs taking place, she needs to realize that Jesus Christ is about to return. Jesus says in **verse 34** that “this generation” will not pass away until everything in the Word of God is fulfilled pertaining to Israel.

The Greek words “this generation” (ἡ γενεὰ αὐτῆ) literally “the generation this” is a definite and specific reference to the nation Israel. The actual word “generation” refers to an ancestral race or genealogy (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 89). What Jesus is promising is that Israel will survive and will not pass away and everything that has been promised to Israel will be fulfilled.

What is interesting about the statement here is that “heaven and earth” will not pass away until after the 1000 year Kingdom reign for Israel (Rev. 21ff.). During the Tribulation, it will appear as though the Antichrist will destroy every Jew (Rev. 12:13, 17). If one is a Jew when these signs occur, one will think the entire nation will be destroyed. Jesus says no that will not happen. Israel will survive the Tribulation, she will have her Kingdom.

DISPENSATIONALISM (33)

Parable #2 - The parable of two men and two women to teach Israel's watchfulness. **24:36-51**

As with every one of these parables, the main point is Israel needs to be watching for the return of Jesus Christ, when she sees these things happening after the Rapture of the Church. **Jesus Christ will certainly return after these signs occur, but the only uncertainty is the specific time or moment of the return.** That is the point of **verse 36**.

Now it is true that we in the Church Age also do not know the specific moment of Christ's return for us and we must wait for the event (Rom. 8:19; I Thess. 1:10; James 5:7); however, this parable is aimed at Israel and not the Church.

The specific signs that will precede the second coming of Jesus Christ are so precise that to not be watching for His return is so evil that there are specific judgments that will be meted out by Jesus Christ.

Now the days of Noah were days characterized by a demonic evil and by people not paying attention to Noah as he built that ark. They just went on with life as Noah kept warning them that God's judgment was coming. The day finally came for judgment and they were destroyed (24:37-39a).

During the Tribulation the 144,000 will be proclaiming what is going to happen and the signs will chronologically happen, just as Christ predicted. For Israel to not heed the warnings is foolish, but there will be many Jews who will be foolish.

Judgment will take them by surprise. In fact, in the math Jesus gives in **verses 40-41**, when He returns, of all the Jews left, 50 % will be taken in judgment and 50% will be left to inherit the Kingdom. This is not a reference to the Rapture of the Church. This is a reference to the judgment Christ pronounces when He returns. When Christ returns, you want to be the one left, not taken.

Verse 42 reiterates the point for Israel; they need to be on the alert every day when those signs are operating, because they do not know the day Israel's Lord is coming.

Notice in **verses 43-51**, Jesus likens the Messiah/King to being the Lord and Master of the household. Now during this time "when you (Israel) see all these things" (**24:33**), she needs to realize that her Messiah is soon to come. The watchfulness is not for Israel now in this Church Age, because she is blinded. But when these signs are taking place, she needs to go on high alert.

According to **verse 45**, during this time the Lord will entrust much to Israel. Israel will be the focal point of the program of God. To not see this or to neglect this has serious consequences. When Christ returns after this series of signs and finds an Israelite not watching or expecting His return, He will cut him to pieces and cast him with the hypocrites where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (**24:51**). **This is a judgment for unfaithful and unprepared Jews.**