

SING WE THE KING WHO IS COMING TO REIGN! (Mk. 13:28-37)

Mk. 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: **29** So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. **30** Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. **31** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. **32** But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Have you ever heard a Christian say they have no interest in the Lord's return? They tell you it's too complicated, and they are just going to wait for it all to happen. ... Recently we have been waiting for our granddaughter to be born, - many of you know what it is like. When your phone rings ... you're waiting, and it is hard to concentrate on anything else. ... For a Christian not to be interested in the greatest event since Calvary *bamboozles* me. I don't understand. How can you not be looking forward to the return to this earth of the Lord Jesus Christ?!

The subject is 'too deep', they say, so they don't read about it. ... But what do they make out of the first two chapters of Genesis! ... Is that any easier to understand, - the story of creation? ... The Bible is *all* God's word, - everywhere from Genesis to Revelation. It doesn't simply *contain* the truth, it *is* the Truth from start to finish. And as for it being too hard to understand ... Yes, there *are* parts of it difficult but we read and read and reread, we compare it with other parts of Scripture, and we go searching for the answer in the right places because we want to know what God teaches in His Word.

And this subject of the Lord's return, it spans the whole of Scripture. It is such an important theme God would not *tease* us with 'snippets' and hold back from showing us what He means. Revelation is a fantastic book, and there are parts of it beyond us, and yet we are promised, **Rev. 1:3** Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. ... So, we are sure of a blessing when we study Christ's return ... and that is what the disciples were experiencing when Jesus explained events leading up to His Second Coming.

At this point in His conversation on the Mount of Olives He says to Peter and Andrew, James and John, **Mk. 13:28** Now learn [*μανθάνω*] a parable of the fig tree. ... He was teaching them something they were capable of learning, - it wasn't beyond them. He began with an uncomplicated illustration with which they were familiar, the fig trees, **28** When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near ... It's not complicated for they *knew* that. Yes, Lord, we understand ... and He continued, **29** So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. ... The 'ye' are the people who will see these things He mentioned in verses fourteen to twenty-three, - these

people will be alive on earth and see the 'abomination of desolation', the Antichrist, and all the rest Jesus described ... When those who are around witness these things, - obviously, followers of Christ who read and study the Scriptures, Old and New, - they will realise the end is very close for Jesus to return and establish His Kingdom on earth. ... Remember the simple formula, God says what He means, and He means what He says. ... Simply believe it.

However, did Jesus mean what He actually said, or did He have a deeper interpretation behind it? ... There was a dangerous sect within the early Church known as the Gnostics who believed there were hidden and deeper meanings behind the Scriptures. They caused havoc for they taught the people not to believe what they were reading, but that there was another explanation behind it ... and we could go off and explore some mainstream views which also symbolise and spiritualise the plain words and thoughts of Scripture ... but you could end up anywhere ... a thousand years doesn't mean a thousand years, 'they' tell you ... the wolf lying down with the lamb doesn't actually mean the wolf will lie down with the lamb, well, why not, if that is what the Bible says?! Before sin entered, isn't that what the wolf and the lamb used to do, in the Garden of Eden ... lie together in harmony?! No, keep it simple, as Jesus said, ³⁰ *Verily I say unto you.*

Over seven hundred years earlier, when God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and said the Messiah would be born of a virgin ... the Messiah *was* born of a virgin. When Micah prophesied the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, He was born in Bethlehem. When they said the Messiah would die on a cross, He died on a cross. When they said He would rise again from the dead, He rose again from the dead! ... So, when Jesus is describing what will take place, there is no warrant to do anything else other than to believe and accept what He is literally saying! ... Take Him at His Word and you won't go wrong!

... And He kept it simple, **Mk. 13:28** *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near ... When the leaves start to grow on the branches, you know that summer is coming and the leaves will soon be budding, - you are looking at the signs, and you are looking for the signs! ²⁹ So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. ... And you will only see when you are looking! If you are not looking, you will miss the signs! The people who will be alive when all these things are happening, - terrible things, ³⁰ *Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done., - and yet, they must happen before the glorious and triumphant arrival of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ ... Ps. 30:5 weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning ... a brand new day when Jesus comes to reign!**

There is only one way those who must face this tribulation and persecution can be successful ... and it is to trust and believe in the Word of God and be confident in the Divine authority with which Jesus assured His disciples, ³¹ *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.* ... He was at the instigation of creation, and He will be at its conclusion ... There is coming a day when this present heaven and earth will be no more ... and it will be nothing to do with the 'greenhouse effect' or 'global warming' or nuclear missiles ... God created this earth, and He decrees when it will end - here is how it will happen, **II Peter 3:10** *the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.* ... You can be sure of it ... heaven and earth will pass away for they are temporary, but the words of the Lord Jesus Christ are permanent and everlasting for they will *never* pass away. That is how *truthful* and dependable His proclamations are. ... That is why we believe them, and not what anyone else says to the contrary!

So, what Jesus is saying in this chapter is thoroughly authoritative, - you can believe every word He said, and the way He said it, **Mk. 13:28** *learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: ²⁹ So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. ³⁰ Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. ³¹ Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. ³² But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*

How is it the Son doesn't know? Since He is God, how does He not know? Does it mean His knowledge is lesser and, His Godhood is called into question? No, it doesn't mean that. What it *does* mean is that He restricted the use of His attributes when He came in human flesh to this earth, as Paul explains in the second chapter of Philippians. However, He restored all His attributes following His resurrection.

Many would like to know when Jesus is coming back. They like to calculate symbols and numbers and events, but the plain truth is only the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit know ... and He will not return a moment sooner than is set out in His decree. Certain things must happen first, and we have to keep an eye on the events around us. ... You look into His Word and He gives you the pointers. ... If anybody says, He has arrived ... look, we know where He is, *don't believe them* because they are preaching and teaching deception, and sadly there are always those who would prefer to believe falsehoods rather than the truth.

Some might say, David, I don't believe what you are preaching. I don't believe what you are saying. Well, that's fair enough if all I have been saying comes from David Greenaway alone ... but what I have been saying I have been very careful did not start with me, but I am only telling you what Jesus said. ... In fact, I

haven't done anything complicated for all I have tried to do is tell you what the Word of God says Jesus said. So, I'm just passing on a message.

I believe Jesus is coming back again, and He is coming back again when this world will have stooped lower than it has ever done at any time in its history. When the nations are fighting each other, and the calamities multiply, and man's inhumanity is flagrantly in breach of God's law, and the depths of depravity have been exceeded through the Antichrist and the abomination of desolation ... *Jesus* will return. And then all those who rejected Him as Saviour, and wouldn't even give Him a thought, they will be cast into Hell with no further opportunity for salvation, for **II Cor. 6:2** *now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* ... There is no longer any hope for them to be saved after Jesus returns.

But what a great time that will be for the believer ... those whose sins have been washed away in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, shed for them on Calvary! His coming will not usher in a period of fear and terror, nor torment. Instead, there will be the most indescribable experience when they feel themselves lifting off from the ground and rising to meet King Jesus,

Sing we the King who is coming to reign,
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain;
Righteousness, peace then His empire shall bring,
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

Kingdom of Christ, for Thy coming we pray,
Hasten, O Father, the dawn of the day
When this new song Thy creation shall sing,
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.