The chief danger of the next century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and Heaven without Hell."
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Prayer Study 555

THE LAST DAYS
LESSON 19
ISRAEL'S IMPORTANCE IN THE LAST DAYS

"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, know that it is near-at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things take place."
(Matthew 24:32-34: This same parable is found also in Luke 21 and Mark 13)

Jesus has given a long discourse on the last days' signs. He did this after his disciples asked Him two questions: "When will these things be?" and "What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?" Then comes this very controversial scripture. I believe that the fig tree represents the nation of Israel in scripture. The verses seem to be referring to the rebirth of Israel, May 15, 1948. Some scholars vehemently disagree, but many do believe this is what the verse is talking about. We do not have time in this course to do an in depth study of Israel in

end time prophecy. But I will give some Biblical references taken from *100 Prophecies*, that were fulfilled in 1948: Jacob's descendants regain control of Israel (Amos 9:14-15); Israel brought back to life (Ezekiel 37:10-14); Israel reborn in one day (Isaiah 66:7-8); Israel re-established as a united nation (Ezekiel 37:21-22); the second Israel more impressive than the first (Jeremiah 16:14-15); Israel would be re-established in 1948-this was prophesied by Ezekiel some- time between 593 to 571BC-(Ezekiel 4:3-6). (Note: Ezekiel said that the Jews would be punished for turning away from God for 430 years. They were punished by losing their homeland and scattered over the earth. Babylon was conquered by Cyrus in 539 BC. He allowed the Jews to go back to Israel, but only a small remnant went back. The rest chose to stay in pagan Babylon so the Lord punished those who stayed by multiplying their punishment by 7 as explained in the book of Leviticus 26, where it says that if the people did not repent while being punished, the punishment would be multiplied by 7. By staying in Babylon, most of the exiles had become worldly and refuse to repent. If you multiply the remaining 360 years by 7, you get 2,520. The calendar went by 360 days a year. When that is adjusted by the lunar calendar which we use today, that gives 2,484 years. Thus 2484 years from 536 BC is 1948); God watched over the people of Israel (Jeremiah 31:10); Israel's army is disproportionately powerful (Leviticus 26:3, 7-8). The fortunes of the people of Israel have been restored (Deuteronomy 30:3-5).

Now the second part of this puzzle: If we take 1948 as the year of the beginning of this generation that will not pass, what is the number of years of a Biblical generation? This creates even

more disagreement among scholars. The Greeks considered a generation as a third of a century. I have read Biblical scholars who assign a generation as few as 20 year and as many as 100 years. There is some evidence in scripture of a generation being 70 years, but there are other references in scripture, such as calling the 40 years in the desert as a generation. Also, what does it mean when Jesus says this will be the generation that does not pass? Is this referring to the people born in 1948 or before? Or is the generation that does not pass not living yet?

We have already seen in previous studies that Eli Scofield in his book *The False Prophet* believes that people who are using 1948 as the beginning of the generation that will not pass are wrong. He assigns 1967 as the beginning date of the generation that will not pass. This was the year that the Israelis took back control over Jerusalem.

At any rate I am not a Judaizer, but I believe Israel is extremely important in end time events. Israel thus is a prophetic sign and will play a role in the end times, but we are to look to the Jesus not to the nation of Israel, and we must remember that we are *spiritual* Israel. Galatians 3:26-29: *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise."*

We must remember, however, that God promised blessings and curses over people based on their treatment of Abraham and his descendants: *I will bless those who bless you. And I will*

curse him who curses you. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

The Jewish people have disproportionately blessed the families of the earth in many ways. I will cite just a few of the more modern blessings that have come out of Israel:

1. Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce, with 145 per 10,000 as opposed to 85 in the U.S., over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany.
2. The cell phone was developed in Israel by Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel.
3. Most of the Windows NT operating system was developed by Microsoft-Israel.
4. The Pentium MMX Chip technology was designed in Israel at Intel.
5. Although the Jews make up only 1% of the world's population, approximately 22% of Nobel Prize recipients are of Jewish decent.
6. Albert Einstein was Jewish
7. The Messiah Jesus Christ was a Jew.

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

The Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah, and they were driven out of Israel into all the world. Because of this, there is a deceptive doctrine among many Christians that Israel has been permanently replaced by the Christian Church. God has not negated His covenant with the Jews, but He has grafted spiritually Gentile believers into the vine. While we are spiritual

Israel, I don't believe that natural Israel's role in end time events is any less important.

<u>We are promised in the Bible a generation that will have the following characteristics?</u>

1. **The Greater Works Generation:** ***Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also, AND GREATER WORKS THAN THESE, shall he do because I go unto my Father*** (John 14:12)
2. **The Generation That Will Not Pass:** ***Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled*** (Luke 21:32).
3. **The Righteous Generation:** *And an highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness….and the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away* (Isaiah 35:8a & 10).
4. **The Generation That Will Seek His Face:** *This is the generation of them who seek Him, who seek Thy face, O Jacob. Selah* (Psalm 24:6).
5. **The Generation That Will Not Fear Evil Tidings:** *He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting the LORD* (Psalm 112:7).
6. **The Latter Rain Generation:** *Then we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come upon us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth* (Hosea 6:3).
7. **The Bridal Company Generation:** *And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of*

heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2).

8. **The Mature Sons of the Kingdom:** *For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God* (Romans 8:19).
9. **The Third Day Generation:** *Come and let us return unto the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days will He revive us; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight* (Hosea 6:1-2).
10. **The Fullness Generation:** *And* [He] *hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all* (Ephesians 1:22-23).
11. **A Generation of Destiny:** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a people of His own, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light* (1st Peter 2:9).
12. **A Generation that will declare His Mighty Acts:** *One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts* (Psalm 145:4)

It's (Past) Time for a Charismatic Reformation
J. Lee Grady

1. Let's reform our theology. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is God and He is holy. He is not an "it." He is not a blob, a force, or an innate power. We must stop manipulating Him, commanding Him and throwing Him around.

2. Let's return to the Bible. The Word of God is the foundation for the Christian experience. Any dramatic experience, no matter how spiritual it seems, must be tested by the Word and the Holy Spirit's discernment. Visions, dreams, prophecies and encounters with angels must be in line with Scripture. If we don't test them we could end up spreading deception.

3. It's time for personal responsibility. We charismatics must stop blaming everything on demons. People are usually the problem.

4. Stop playing games. Spiritual warfare is a reality, but we are not going to win the world to Jesus just by shouting at demonic principalities. We must pray, preach and persevere to see ultimate victory.

5. Stop the foolishness. People who hit, slap or push others during prayer should be asked to sit down until they learn gentleness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

6. End all spiritual extortion now. Christian television ministries must cease and desist from all manipulative fundraising tactics. We must stop giving platforms to ministers who make outlandish claims of supernatural financial returns, especially when Scripture is twisted, deadlines are imposed and the poor are exploited.

7. No more Lone Rangers. Those who claim to be ministers of God—whether they are traveling evangelists, local pastors or heads of ministries—must be accountable to other leaders. Any who refuse to submit their lives to godly discipline should be corrected.

8. Expose the creeps. Churches should start doing background checks on traveling ministers. Preachers who have been hiding criminal records, lying about their past marriages, preying on women or refusing to pay child support should be exposed as charlatans and shunned if they do not repent.

9. Stop faking the anointing. God is God, and He does not need our "help" to manifest Himself. That means we don't sprinkle glitter on ourselves to suggest God's glory is with us, hide fake jewels on the floor to prove we are anointed or pull chicken feathers out of our sleeves to pretend angels are in the room. This is lying to the Holy Spirit.

10. Let's return to purity. We've had enough scandals. The charismatic church must develop a system for the restoration of fallen ministers. Those who fall morally can be restored, but they must be willing to submit to a process of healing rather than rushing immediately back into the pulpit.

11. We need humility. Ministers who demand celebrity treatment, require lavish salaries, insist on titles or exhibit aloofness from others are guilty of spiritual pride.

12. No more big shots. Apostles are the bondslaves of Christ, and should be the most impeccable models of humility. True apostles do not wield top-down, hierarchical authority over the church. They serve the church from the bottom up as true servants.

13. Never promote gifts at the expense of character. Those who operate in prophecy, healing and miracles must also exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. And while we continue to encourage the gift of tongues, let's make sure we don't treat it like some kind of

badge of superiority. The world needs to see our love, not our glossolalia.

14. Hold the prophets accountable. Those who refuse to take responsibility for inaccurate statements should not be given platforms. And "prophets" who live immoral lives don't deserve a public voice.

15. Let's make the main thing the main thing. The purpose of the Holy Spirit's anointing is to empower us to reach others. We are at a crossroads today: Either we continue off-course, entertained by our charismatic sideshows, or we throw ourselves into evangelism, church planting, missions, discipleship, and compassionate ministry that helps the poor and fights injustice. Churches that embrace this New Reformation will focus on God's priorities.

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