

## PARABLES—Section 4, Part 8

Matthew 24:32-36

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1. 24:32 Jesus wanted His followers to learn in their inmost beings what He was teaching, not simply to understand it, but to allow its truth to permeate their minds in order to affect the way they lived.
2. 24:32 The fig tree does not bring summer, but its new leaves indicate summer is near.
3. 24:33 “All these things” refers directly to what He had previously said:
  - The birth pangs (Matthew 24:4-14)
  - The abomination of desolation (24:15)
  - The need to flee because of the approaching disasters (24:16-28)
  - The catastrophic dismantling of the universe (24:29)
4. 24:34 For millennia, people have incorrectly attempted to use this verse to place a specific date on Jesus’ return. Jesus was not stating an exact date; rather, He was stating the events that will identify its arrival.
5. 24:34 “This generation” refers to the people living at the end time who view those signs. Those who witness the birth pangs will witness the birth.
6. 24:35 In our human view, the heavens and the earth stand for what is permanent; we consider them unchangeable (see 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 21:1).
7. 24:35 All that Jesus has said will not fail but will come to complete fulfillment, including everything He has said about last days.
8. 24:35 Whatever has been touched by sin must pass; God’s Word will be untouched (Psalm 12:6).
9. 24:36 The purpose of prophecy is not to entertain but to encourage and motivate.
10. 24:36 The hope of every Christian is the return of the Lord Jesus.

We look back to the cross where our souls were redeemed, at the same time looking forward to the second coming. In that day:

- Our bodies will be redeemed.
- The curse will be lifted.
- Satan will be defeated.
- Sin/death will be eliminated.
- All of creation will be liberated.
- Christ will be worshiped.
- We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

### GREEK WORDS

**Manthano** (man-than´-o)—to learn (in any way): — to genuinely understand; fullest application; learner hears a truth, accepts it as true and applies it in one’s life

### QUOTES

“[L]et us remember that the first coming of the Messiah to suffer was the most improbable event that could have been conceived, and let us not doubt that as He literally came in person to suffer, so He will literally come again in person to reign.” ~J.C. Ryle, 1860

