

"JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD" (Acts 2:22)
Miracle #40 - "THE WITHERED FIG TREE AT BETHANY"

Matthew 21:17-20; Mark 11:11-14,15-18,19-21

Shock! Horror! Gasp! Wheeze! There is a contradiction in the King James Bible!

Sorry Folks! False alarm!

There are **not two accounts** ... **just one account** ... and they both **agree** with each other ... when you line them up correctly as follows ...

Matthew 21:17-20	Mark 11:11-14,15-18,19-21
	SUNDAY 11 And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things,
SUNDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY NIGHT
17 And he left them, and went out of the	and now the eventide was come,
city into Bethany; and he lodged there. (about 2 miles)	he went out unto Bethany with the twelve. (about 2 miles)
MONDAY MORNING	MONDAY MORNING

13 Now **in the morning** as he returned into the city, he **hungered**.

19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it,

Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.

And presently the fig tree withered away.

12 And **on the morrow**, when they were come from Bethany, he was **hungry**:

13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

14 And Jesus answered and said unto it, **No man eat fruit of thee hereafter** for ever. And his disciples heard it.

DURING MONDAY

15 And **they come to Jerusalem:** and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

16 And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.

17 And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.

18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.

MONDAY NIGHT

MONDAY NIGHT

19 And when **even was come**, he went out of the city.

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, **How soon is the fig tree withered away!**

TUESDAY MORNING

20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw **the fig tree dried up from the roots**.

21 And Peter **calling to remembrance** saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

Israel represents the withered tree. The clock is about to strike midnight. Israel will be cast aside ... only temporarily though ... for about two thousand years.

1. Christ enters Jerusalem

Christ is going to the cross. It's **Sunday** and there will the next **four days** ... for the Lamb of God to be inspected for imperfections (<u>Leviticus 22:21-22</u>) ... Christ was **tried** and **examined** for four days.

2. Christ found no fruit

Israel was not showing Christ any fruit ... only a few leaves on the fig tree.

Indeed, any fruit Israel had given him was bitter and inedible.

Most would not believe in Christ (<u>John 3:16</u>) ... but a few had chosen to believe on him (<u>Acts 16:31</u>).

But Israel's time of figs will come (Matthew 24) ... in the seven years of tribulation ... when their self-righteous fig leaves will be stripped off them.

Ever since creation, Adam and Eve clothed themselves in fig leaves to cover up their shame, nakedness and guilt as follows ...

"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." (Genesis 3:7)

Israel was, and is, a self-righteous nation ... but this will be exposed during the seven years of tribulation.

The Lord curses fig trees but never olive trees. Israel was in the olive tree only to be broken off and cursed as a fig tree.

3. Christ cursed the fig tree

As the fig tree represented Israel, Christ was cursing the nation. Its time had come to an end ... **four steps** ...

Firstly ... nothing but leaves (Mark 11:13)

Secondly ... **no fruit** (Mark 11:14)

Thirdly ...it has withered (Matthew 21:19)

Fourthly ... to become completely dried up from the roots (Mark 11:20)

Fifthly ... Israel were **broken off** the olive tree and treated as a fig tree (Romans 11:17)

4. Christ cleans out the temple

It's as if Christ is saying "I'll be the new spiritual temple now ... this one has been polluted." (1 Peter 4:17; Hebrews 9:11)

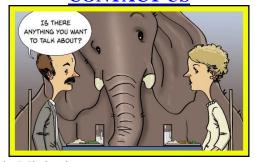
5. The visible church will quickly wither away

Furthermore Dear Reader, the visible church dispensation we are under at the moment will **also quickly wither** and disappear ... as in the twinkling of an eye ... when Christ returns (1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Dera Reader, let us examine ourselves for any self-righteous fig tree qualities.

Harley Hitchcock
May 2023
www.
AustralianBibleMinistries
.com

"CONTACT US"



Australian Bible Ministries, PO Box 5058 Mt. Gravatt East 4122 Qld, Australia www.AustralianBibleMinistries.com