



### "THE 41 PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST"

28 general parables and 13 kingdom of heaven parables

#### Parable #20 – "THE FIG TREE"

[Matthew 24:32-35,36-39,40-43,44;](#)

[Mark 13:28-31,32;](#)

[Luke 21:29-32,33](#)

The 9<sup>th</sup> of the 28 general parables

#### BACKGROUND:

In 445BC, with **one Bible week** equating to **seven years** (a prophetic year being 360 days), God commanded that **seventy weeks** each of **7 years**, would be determined upon Israel, that is ... **70 weeks x 7 years = 490 years** ([Daniel 9:24-27](#)).

This time frame is broken into **four** time periods of (a) **7 weeks** + (b) **62 weeks** + (c) the mystery church age of about 2,000 years + (d) **1 week = 70 weeks** and is explained as follows:

#1. **Seven** weeks of years is **7 x 7 = 49** years ... the time it takes to restore and build Jerusalem from 445BC to 396BC.

#2. **Sixty two** weeks of years is **62 x 7 = 434** years ... the time from the building of Jerusalem in 396BC to Christ being cut off at the cross in 32AD.

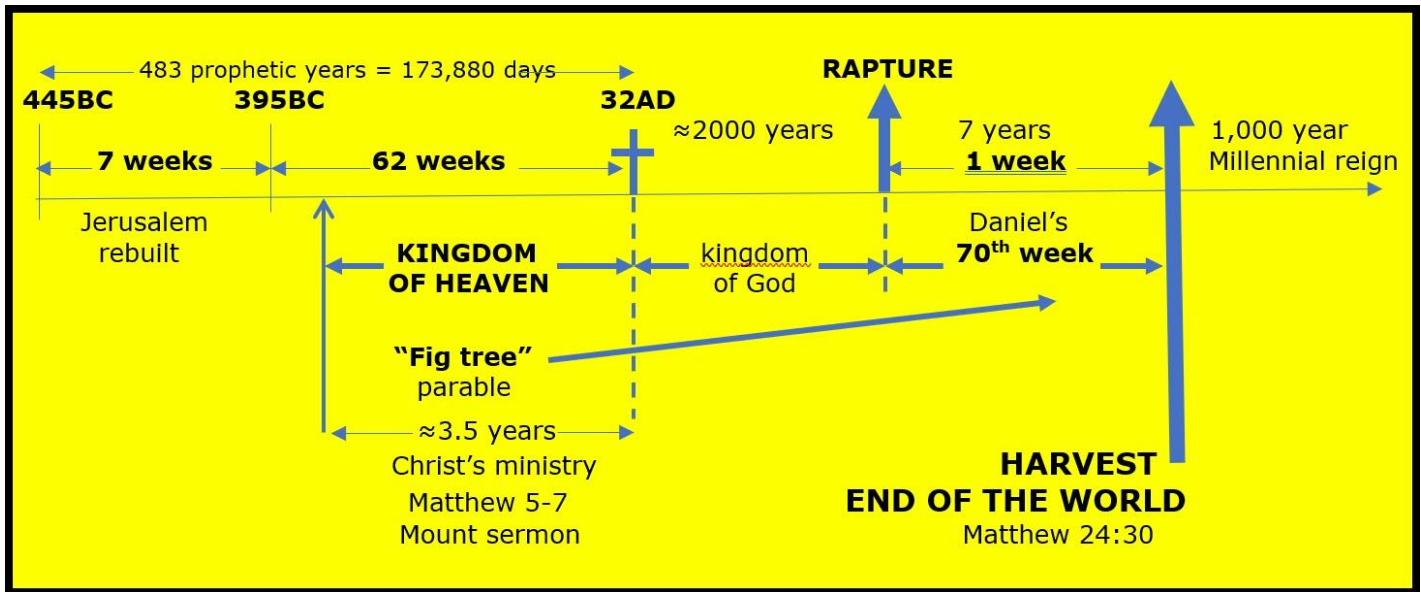
#3. The church age of approximately 2,000 years

#4. **One week** of years is **1 x 7 = 7** years ... this is the seven years of tribulation of God's wrath upon the earth, that takes place after the rapture ... called **Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week**.

The following **Timeline** will help (not drawn to scale):

#### [DANIEL 9:24-27](#)

**"Seventy weeks** are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city ... from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be **seven weeks**, and **threescore and two weeks** ... after **threescore and two weeks** shall Messiah be cut off ... he shall confirm the covenant with many for **one week** ..."



### "THE FIG TREE" parable [Matthew 24:32-34](#)

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall **see all these things**, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**"

### "YOU'VE REALLY GOT US CONFUSED NOW JESUS!"

If Israel had difficulty hearing and seeing parables, they must have been **really confused** over this parable of the fig tree.

Being set in one of the most important chapters of the Bible, Matthew 24 has this conflicting paradox ... here's Jesus talking a sprouting, healthy, shiny, fig leaved tree that is placed along side the most dire of set world events you could imagine ... as follows ...

**" ... many shall come in my name ... wars and rumours of wars ... nation shall rise against nation ... kingdom against kingdom ... famines, pestilences, and earthquakes ... they deliver you up ... kill you ... hated of all nations ... many be offended ... betray one another ... hate one another ... false prophets ... iniquity shall abound ... love of many shall wax cold ... the abomination of desolation ... Lo, here is Christ ... false Christs ... false prophets ... great signs and wonders ... deceive the very elect ... the sun be darkened ... moon shall not give her light ... the stars shall fall from heaven ... he shall send his angels ... gather together his elect ..."** ([Matthew 24:5-31](#)) and so on.

### BUT THE DISCIPLE'S TWO QUESTIONS WERE ...

"What's the sign of **your coming back** again Jesus?"

"What's the sign of **the end of the world**?" ([Matthew 24:3](#))

So he simply tells them.

Jesus says "Watch out for these dreadful things that will happen, because when you see them you will know that I am coming back and that will be the end of the world as you know it!"

Surely the disciples would have said "Well ... that does not make sense Jesus!"

### **A LITTLE BACKGROUND ...**

Israel is represented by two trees of the olive and the fig ... with the first always remaining alive ([Hebrew 13:5](#)). When Christ entered Jerusalem he cursed the fig tree not the olive tree ([Matthew 21:19](#)) meaning from that time forward, Israel was to be cast aside as a nation. They would be as dead and withered.

In a nutshell, Christ with this parable, states that when he comes back a second time to rescue Israel (Revelation 19), of which they would not have known about at that time, he will be taking the curse off Israel ... that is ... they will no longer be cast aside as a withered and dead tree, but from this time forth, he will be sitting on David's throne, and Israel will be the head and not the tail anymore!

### **WHAT DOES THE PHRASE "THIS GENERATION SHALL NOT PASS" MEAN?**

What group of people does this refer to?

How long is a generation of people?

Is a generation 60 years or seventy years?

Is it from 1948 when Israel becomes a nation?

Is it from the 1960's and 1970's with all Israel's wars against the Arabs going forward?

### **THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'GENERATION' AND 'GENERATIONS'?**

People see a word like **generation** and immediately assume it means **generations** as in **people** and **ancestors** ... as in an **ancestral line** ... as we have with Jesus Christ which lists his **ancestors** ... that is ... the generations, his ancestors, that came before him ([Matthew 1:1-17](#)).

But we see the distinction between the two words 'generation' ([Matthew 1:1](#)) and 'generations' ([Matthew 1:17](#)). In other words **Christ's generation** contains his **ancestral generations** ... the latter being a subset of the former.

So in the first chapter of Matthew, there is **the generation**, the coming into being, the **process** involved, the **bringing into existence** of Christ ... along with the **generations** of people that came before him ... his **ancestral line**.

Hence we see two different meanings to these words.

An example would be a certain electric motor that can **generate** power ... that is there is a **generation of power** from the motor. And of course, there can be various amounts of power that can be generated ... that is ... there are various **generations of power** that can

come from the machine. But no-one would assume that this refers to the previous models, the generations of motors, manufactured previously.

Another example is ...

Israel is a **state**, that is, a nation.

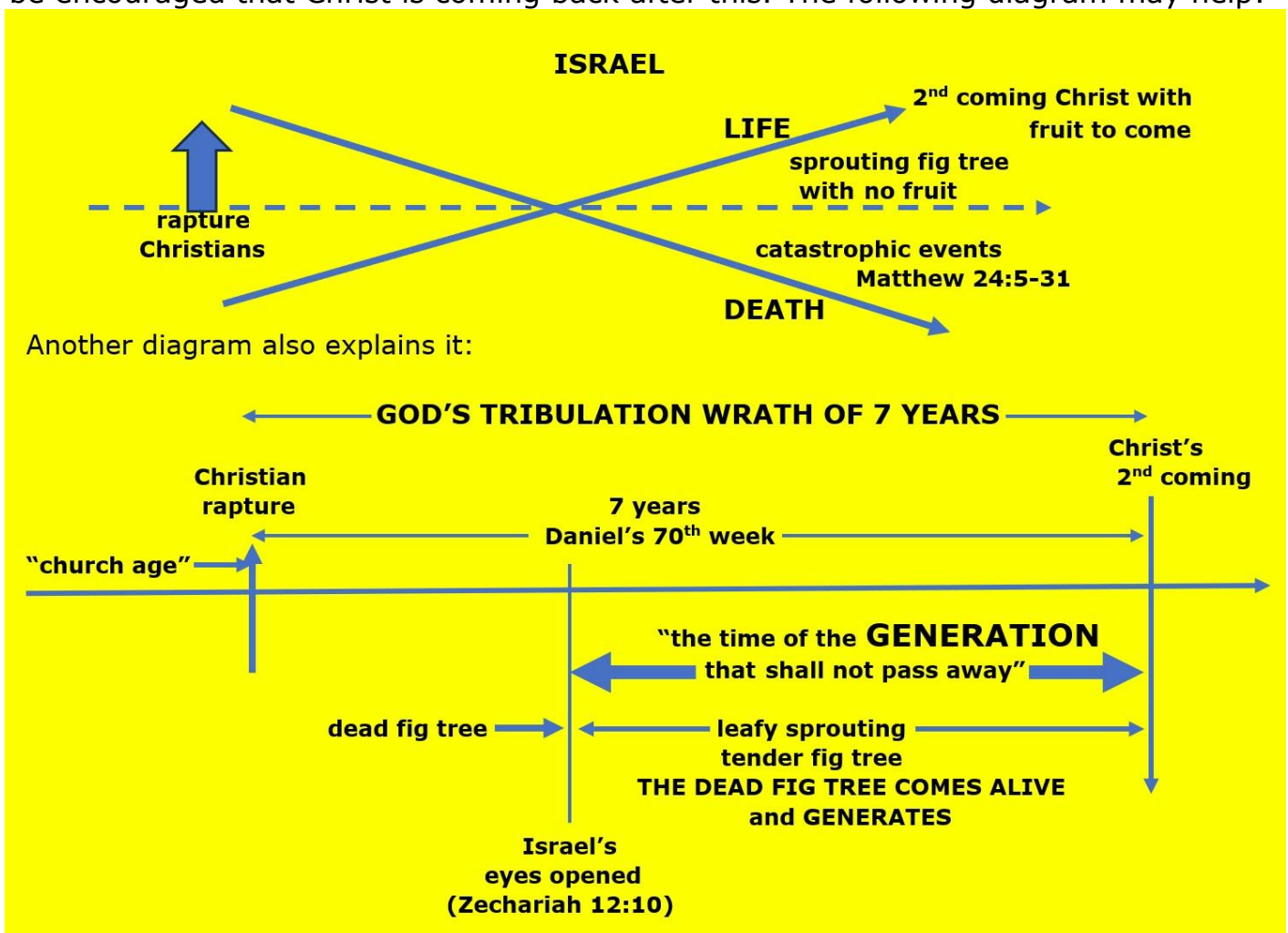
Now one might ask "**What is the state** of Israel?" ... meaning what are the conditions in Israel like? That is, what is happening in Israel today ... what are the economic, political or social factors operating in Israel?

Dear Reader can you see the difference?

### THE FIG TREE GENERATION

In the parable, this generation simply means **the generation of the fig tree** ... **NOT** a line of ancestors, **NOT** a generation of people, and **NOT** a specific time period of people.

So on one hand Israel will be confronted the catastrophic events ([Matthew 24:5-31](#)) but are to be encouraged that Christ is coming back after this. The following diagram may help:



### FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Fig leaves represent a type of **human righteousness** and used as a **shield** to hide human sins ([Genesis 3:7](#)). These leaves are large, velvety, attractive and soft to the human skin ... as is **man's religion**. Not fit to stand in the presence of God, man manufactures his own

religious programmes he thinks will be sufficient. Fig leaves shrink to about one quarter of their size, thereby failing to hide the parts they should. So it is with human religions, as they are not sufficient to cover man's sin.

**2.** There are **two trees** that **represent Israel** – the **olive** and the **fig**, with the former representing Israel from a **spiritual aspect**, and the fig tree as a **nation**.

**3.** In the Lord cursing the fig tree but **not** the olive tree ([Matthew 21:19](#)), Christ lays no hope in the survival of the nation of Israel ... at that point in time. His cursing signified the coming destruction of the nation of Israel ... for about 2,000 years.

However the olive tree, being spiritual Israel, and being the hardiest of trees, and 'almost' impossible to destroy and will always survive ([Hebrews 13:5](#)) ... Christ never cursed the olive tree.

**4.** Indeed, during Israel's seven years of tribulation, we have the two live olive trees, Moses and Elijah ([Revelation 11:4](#); [Zechariah 4:3-6](#)) being upheld by God amidst their enemies.

**5.** It can be said that we see evidence of budding of Israel's fig leaves today, with Israel being established as a nation in 1948 and having its own postage, coinage, government and educational institutions and so on, and one day we know that Israel will expel all foreign interference, destroy the Moslem dome of the rock, and Christ will rule and reign from David's throne in Jerusalem.

But this is **incorrect** to the real meaning of the budding fig leaves. Indeed the context is to be found with Israel **IN** the seven years of tribulation.

#### **THE PARABLE EXPLANATION:**

**[Matthew 24:32-35,36-39,40-43,44](#)**

**1.** the **fig tree** = the fig tree represents **Israel**.

**2.** When his branch is yet **tender**, and putteth **forth leaves**, ye know that **summer is nigh**  
There are several points here:

(a) The context of this parable is the time of the seven years of tribulation that takes place after the Christian rapture, for both the world and for Israel.

(b) The nation of the fig tree of Israel has been cursed by Christ ([Matthew 21:19](#)) but now will now be eventually revived, starting with Israel having its eyes being opened in the seven years of tribulation ([Zechariah 12:10](#)) ... thereby signalling the end of that world and the return of Christ.

(c) This is the prophecy of future history foretold, for Israel and the rest of the world, that **tender** fig trees, and coming into full bloom, are approaching the summer.

(d) The word 'fruit' is not mentioned in the parable, so the fruit will become evident after Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.



(e) So after Israel's eyes being opened, the branches of the fig tree will still be young and the leaves will be sprouting ... but **there will be no fruit at that time ... but will come in the 1,000 year reign to follow with Christ on David's throne. It will be Christ's fruit.**

(e) So this is about Israel watching and waiting, with discernment, and knowing the time of when the end of the world is nigh and Christ will return.

The equivalent is something like this ... when any farmer sees the changing of the moon phases, dew forming on the ground, increased rain and so on and so on ... and he puts all these things together, and says "There is a change of season coming." In other words he puts 'two and two together' to ascertain the weather.

(f) With no fruit mentioned there are plenty of leaves, which means the fig tree is alive and growing ... that is ... Israel, as a nation, will come **alive** at the end seven years of tribulation.

(g) Indeed their eyes will be **opened** by the Lord ([Zechariah 12:10](#)) ... but as a nation will not have time for fruitful works. Israel's branch at this time will be very tender as the parable says, is producing leaves ... but with no fruit.

(h) But as we will see, there will be **individuals**, one in the field and one in the mill ([Matthew 24:40-41](#)), that will have produced fruit before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord in Revelation chapter 19 ... and will raptured before his coming.

(i) This section of the parable warns Israel to use discernment and see that the '**summer is nigh**' ... that is ... the seven year tribulation world is coming to an end with Christ about to return.

(j) So the situation is this ... Israel has been a dead fig tree nation ([Matthew 21:19](#)) up to the time when God opens their eyes ([Zechariah 12:10](#)), and they begin to bud leaves on their tender branches just before Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

**3.** So likewise ye, when ye shall **see all these things**, know that it is near, even at the doors = these things are very close to happening and will be a certainty and are imminent. This will be also evidenced by the two witnesses of Elijah and Moses ([Revelation 11:4](#))

**4.** Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass**, till all these things be fulfilled = Confusion over this parable has its source in semantics and linguistics ... that is ... the meaning of a word is in its context ... it will be **the generation of the fig tree** as previously explained, not generations of people.

**5. till all these things be fulfilled.**

What are these things? These things are as have been mentioned ...

*many shall come in my name ... wars and rumours of wars ... nation shall rise against nation ... kingdom against kingdom ... famines, pestilences, and earthquakes ... they deliver you up ... kill you ... hated of all nations ... many be offended ... betray one another ... hate one another ... false prophets ... iniquity shall abound ... love of many shall wax cold ... the abomination of desolation ... Lo, here is Christ ... false Christs ... false prophets ... great signs and wonders ... deceive the very elect ... the sun be darkened ... moon shall not give her light ... the stars shall fall from heaven ... he shall send his angels ... gather together his*

elect ... ([Matthew 24:3-31](#)) ... and so on.

**6. Heaven and earth shall pass away**, but my words shall not pass away = in other words all the words of this parable will be fulfilled before heaven and earth pass away ... and they will ... but not just yet ... but all the words of this parable will come about before that happens. In other words, it will be impossible that heaven and earth shall pass away before these things come to pass.

**7. But of that day and hour knoweth no man** = only the Father knows.

But doesn't say week or month does it?

Israel will know they are on '**the verge**' of something very, very near ... it might be this week ... or next?

**8. But as the days of Noe** were, so shall also **the coming of the Son of man** be = Revelation chapter 19.

**9. For as in the days that were before the flood** = the flood occurred in 2340BC

**10. they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage**, until the day that noe entered into the ark = **the Gentiles** were having a good time and carrying on as usual.

We must remember this will be the general populace of people of the world, and not the righteous ones, Jewish and Gentile, that will be raptured just before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

**11. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away**; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be, not the Son of God = see [Revelation 19:19-21](#).

The Son of God comes in the air for the Christians at their rapture, but this will be a physical coming of Christ onto the earth ... actual horse and rider on the ground!

**12. Then shall two be in the field**; the **one** shall be taken, and the other left.

**Two women shall be grinding at the mill**; the **one** shall be taken, and the other left = this will be the rapture of the individual righteous ones ... either Gentile or Jewish just before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ.

**13. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour** your Lord doth come = it's getting **real close now** ... it doesn't mention day as in verse 36 ([Matthew 24:36](#)). This happens **JUST** before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ ... to the hour ... that day!

**14. But know this, that if the goodman of the house** had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Just suppose the man of the house had heard that a thief would break into his house after 12.30 am and before 12.45 am, he would sit up, watch and wait and be ready for the thief to break into his house.

**15.** Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not **the Son of man cometh** = so Israel needs to know that when all the above things start to happen, then the Son of man will be returning.

### THE CHRISTIAN APPLICATION:

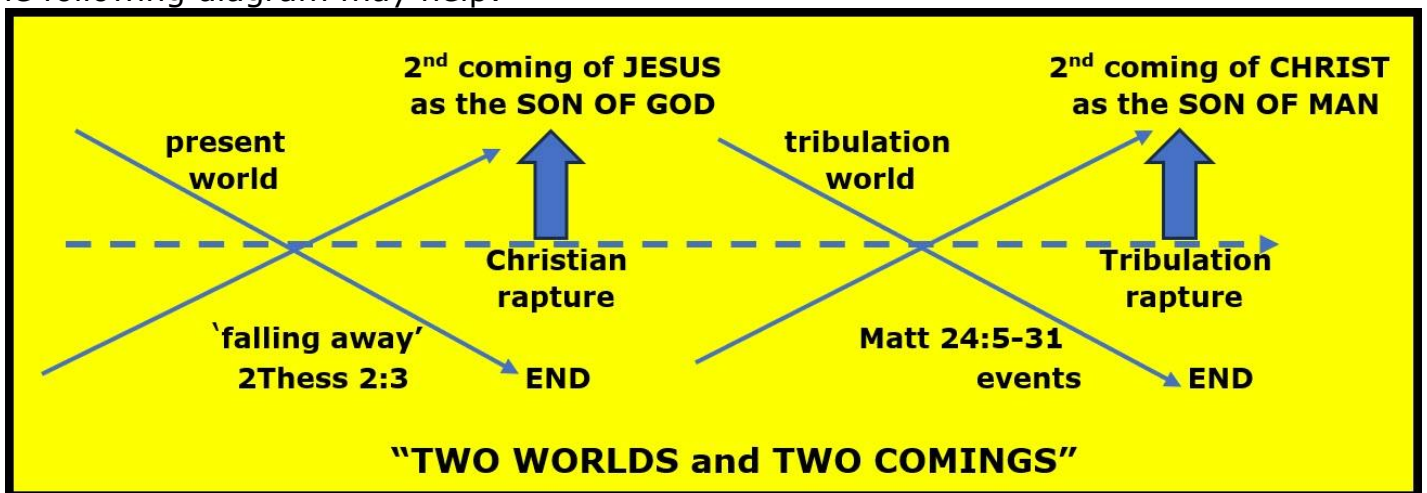
There is a parallel application of this parable for Christians today.

Christians are asking "When will the **end of this world be?**"

"When will **you be coming back Jesus?**"

**There will be two world endings and two comings of Jesus Christ.**

The following diagram may help:



Dear Reader, do you know when the **1<sup>st</sup> rapture** will happen" ... that is ... when Christians will be taken off the earth with the return of the Son of God (1 Thessalonians 4:16)? You want to go with this lot! You won't want to miss it!

Be warned ... the time is very near with

1. Ukraine and Russia going to war ... soon to be joined together with Sudan, Iran, Libya, Turkey to attack Israel after the Christian rapture!
2. China (kings of the East) flexing its muscles!
3. Europe is about to announce its leader ... antichrist!

Dear Reader, you won't want to be around for the seven years of God's wrath and tribulation being poured out on the earth! **Go in the 1<sup>st</sup> rapture!**

"Dear God, **help me!**

I keep doing things that I don't want to do.

It's like there's a **criminal** inside of me making me do things I hate doing!

I **hate** myself! I'm a **sinner!**

It's like I'm a **schizophrenic** ... there's two sides to me.

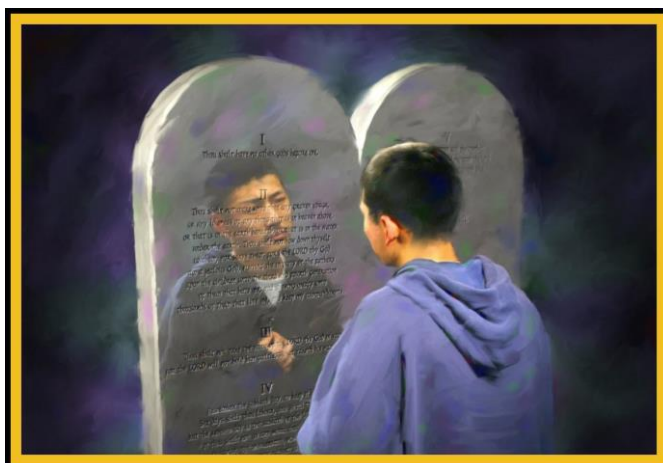
I want to do the right thing but I can't!



I want to be good! You have to set me **free** from my sins!  
 They're killing me!  
 I've got this monkey on my back! The black dog keeps hounding me!  
 You said if I believe that **Jesus died for my sins** ... you can save me.  
 It's like I'm in this **body of death**. I can't help myself. **Save me!**"

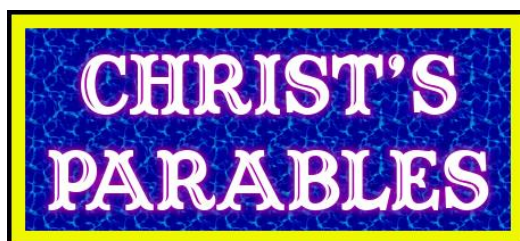
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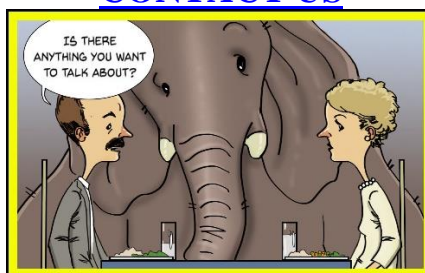


**"YOU HAVE TWO ENEMIES**  
**... GOD'S LAWS AND YOUR FLESH!"**

"Dear God, **help me!** I do things that  
 I don't want to do.



**"CONTACT US"**



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