

Israel in Prophecy

The fig tree

Anybody like puzzles? $\frac{1}{2}$ million pieces 66K sq ft Guinness records--Costco sells 60,000 pieces \$600 wt 100 lbs To put together a puzzle w/o a picture as reference extremely hard? *Usually start w/ edges or corner piece & work your way inside.* But if you had the **picture** & key puzzle center pieces already laid out, you'd complete the puzzle in record time.

God's prophetic center puzzle piece is Israel which is already moved into place. Recent Hamas brutal attack--killing, raping, beheading babies, taking hostages w/ Israel declaring war—signs of the End Times where Jesus declares there will be wars & rumors of wars Matt 24:6. *"It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy-burdensome stone for all the peoples; all who lift it-burden themselves w/ it will be severely injured-cut in pieces. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it. Zech 12:3*

The land goes back to the days of Abraham almost 4200 yrs ago & once occupied by the Jebusites until conquered by King David over 3000 yrs ago. David bought & paid for the Temple mount at that time a threshing floor he bought from Araunah for 50 shekels of silver & 600 shekels of gold for the land it sits on \$322K. Zion where God will dwell & Jesus will reign **1K** *Ps 132:13 For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it as His dwelling place.*

Matthew 24 & 25 is called the Olivet discourse where Jesus gave a bible study to His disciples from the Mt of Olives overlooking Jerusalem. He told them world conditions prior to His 2nd coming & 1000 yr millennial reign.

He said there will be false prophets/christs leading people astray (3xs). Spirit of anti-Christ (in place of Christ) *men around the world claim to be Jesus Christ reincarnated, and many have a following of devoted believers. From a retired Siberian traffic cop named Vissarion to a cross-dressing former British spy David Shayler all claim to be the son of God.*

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Wars rumors wars, nation against nation (**ethnos**), kingdom against kingdom (US News 52 worldwide conflicts) Famines, Earthquakes, Disturbances (tumults, instability), Plagues, Signs in Heavens, Lawlessness, Falling away, Love grow cold, Persecution...

And yet all these puzzle pieces would be unrelated if it weren't for the major puzzle piece, the **Nation Israel**.

Matt 24:32 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near,

:33 even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

:34 “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

Fig tree first mentioned in Garden of Eden—leaves used to cover A/E after they sinned (3:7). Named when describing **abundance** of Promise Land. **Dt 8:8 “a land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees...”** The spies brought back from the land **Nu 13:23 ‘a cluster of grapes, pomegranates and figs.’** Fig tree became known as **Israel's national symbol**.

Hos 9:10...I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the **fig tree in its first season.**

Jer 24:1-4...the Lord showed me: behold two baskets of **figs set before the temple of the Lord! One basket had very good **figs**, like first-ripe **figs**; and the other basket had very bad **figs**, which could not be eaten due to rottenness. Then the Lord said to me, ‘What do you see, Jeremiah?’ And I said, ‘**Figs**, the good **figs**, very good; and the bad **figs**, very bad, which cannot be eaten due to rottenness.’ Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying...these are the **whole house of Israel**...’**

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Learn the parable—increase your knowledge, make a comparison, learn by inquiry or observation. Jesus at one point said ‘take my yoke, learn of me..’ not **about** but intimate knowledge **of**....

Branch tender...put forth leaves – branch full of sap...juices of the root returns into the branches—buds swell and burst because they are too delicate to contain the pressing and expanding leaves. When you see this acknowledge spring & summer are at hand.

In contrast, prior to this parable Jesus cursed the fig tree.

Matt 21:18 Now in the morning, when He returned to the city, He became hungry.

:19 And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it, and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, “No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you.” And at once the fig tree withered.

It was expected that a fig tree w/ young leaves would also have immature figs which are edible if it was to produce fruit at all. The fruitless tree was a **symbol** of spiritually Israel-- Barren & ready to be cursed. Which happened less than 40 years later in the 2nd year of Gessius Florus who succeeded Albinus successor of Procius Festus Acts 24:27.

In May 66 AD war broke out against Jewish zealots. The temple in Jerusalem was burned August 10, 70 AD, the same month it had been burned by Babylonians 600 yrs earlier. On Sept 8, 70 AD in the 2nd yr of Vespasian Jerusalem fell.

Lk 21:24...Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the gentiles be fulfilled.

For over 2500 yrs the wandering Jews have not had a sovereign homeland of their own—in the land but only under Gentile interference.

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The times of gentiles were fulfilled June 28, 1967 after 2500 yrs when Jerusalem ceased to be trampled or occupied by non-Jewish Gentiles, but Jerusalem is in the sovereign hands of the Jews. After the six day war Defense Minister Moshe Dayan led Israeli troops into Jerusalem and declared ***'We have returned to the holiest of our holy places, never to depart from it again'***.

The fig tree has been planted and cultivated again. Jesus gave worldwide condition just prior to His return, Ezekiel gives local conditions in Israel once the fig tree is planted prior to the Lords return.

Ez 36:8 'But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come.

:9 "For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be cultivated and sown.

:34 "And the desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passed by.

In 1948 **2%** of Israel was forest—2023 **8 1/2 %** forest over **260 million** trees have been planted—changing the atmosphere CO₂ +H₂O+Sun=O₂. Next door neighbor Jordan 1.1% forest.

Ez 36:10 'And I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt

:24 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land.

:37...I will increase their men like a flock.

In 1881 the Jewish population was **20,000** in Israel. By 1914 it grew to **80,000** an increase of 60,000 33 yrs. Recently w/in a 2 mo period **60,000** Jews immigrated to Israel. When we were w/ our tour group a few years ago **42,000** in one month. Daily at Tel Aviv airport 747's loaded w/ Jews returning to Israel. Today population in Israel is over 9.73 million of which 73.5% Jews 7.2 million---coming from all the lands

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Russia/Ukraine (Former USSR)	1,231,003
Morocco, Algeria & Tunisia	354,852*
Romania	276,586*
Poland	173,591*
Iraq	131,138*
United States	101,592
Ethiopia	92,730
France	81,885
Iran	76,934*
Argentina	66,916*
Turkey	62,837*
Yemen	50,731*
Bulgaria	44,372*
Egypt and Sudan	37,763*
Libya	35,844*
United Kingdom	35,164
Hungary	32,022*
India	28,702*
Czechoslovakia (Former)	24,468*
South Africa	20,038*
Germany	19,905*
Yugoslavia (Former)	10,768*
Syria	9,547*

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Ez 36:11 ‘And I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be **inhabited** as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am the Lord

:33...I will cause the **cities** to be **inhabited**, and the **waste places** will be **rebuilt**.

New cities and **new** settlements in waste places are taking place thru out Israel non-stop. \$10 billion resettlement fund called **Absorption** over 256 cities, towns and villages and growing all the time. (How many Israeli settlements are there? As of January 2023, there are 144 Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including 12 in East Jerusalem. There are over 100 Israeli illegal outposts in the West Bank.)

36:30 ‘And I will multiply the **fruit** of the tree and the **produce** of the field, that you may not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations.

Is 27:6 In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will **blossom** and **sprout**; And they will **fill the whole earth w/ fruit**.

Israel size of **Delaware** or **Lake Erie** or about 2 xs the **Big Island of Hawaii** yet 4th largest producer of fruit. More than forty types of fruit grown in Israel. In addition to **citrus**, these include **avocados**, bananas, apples, cherries, plums, nectarines, **grapes**, dates, **strawberries**, prickly pear (tzabbar), persimmon, loquat (shesek) and **pomegranates**. Israel is the leading producer of loquat (shesek) after Japan plum.

Fresh flowers imported to European cities in winter. ***Ez 36:35 “And they will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate, and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.’***

Agricultural technology is world famous especially drip irrigation watering systems in arid/dry lands. Israel developed **strains of potatoes** that thrive in hot, dry climates, & can be irrigated by saltwater. Potatoes are one of the top sources of nutrition in the world, but never before grew well in hot, desert regions like the Middle East

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Israel-fig tree sap is in the branch---leaves are showing on the tree. As the tree knows its appointed time—budding and blossoming are warnings of summer--so worldwide signs and condition in Israel are signs to be observed and to take heed, the time is near.

This generation shall not pass away—genea—a period of time 40, 70 or race of people.

Date setting fails – 1948 + 40 = **1988 88 reasons why JC come back 1988.**

1967 + 40 = 2007 gone before the 7 year tribulation so year of Y2K. or 70 + 1948 = 2018 or 1967 + 70 = 2037

After the failure of his last prediction — he said the [world would end on May 21, 2011](#), and, when that didn't happen, [amended the date to Oct. 21](#) — **Herold Camping** conceded that he had been wrong about the timing & had no evidence that the world would end soon. He offered an apology for his erroneous statements, which he called “sinful,” and hinted that his days of apocalyptic warnings were over. He ended age 92 two years later 12/13/13

The rapture of the church **1Thes 4:16,17** could happen at any time---then the anti-Christ will be revealed which begins the 70th week of Daniel or the last 7 years of mans history as we know it--called the **tribulation period**.

Jesus said ‘there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now. Nor ever shall. And unless those days had been cut short no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short. Matt 24:21, 22

Lk 21:25 describes worldwide calamity ‘**dismay among nations in perplexity**’ (w/o resources--in a strait--left wanting--not knowing which way to turn--at wits end--at a loss w/ ones’ self. With Christians gone after the Raputure, World will embrace a leader, antichrist, to solve their problems. He comes on a peace platform as a savior but 3 1/2 yrs after gaining power shows his true colors--the devil incarnate.

Leading up is Ez 38 hook in Russia jaw w/ Iran & others to take a spoil.