

## **It's Gonna' Rain** Matthew 24: 32-41

As Jesus continued the Olivet Discourse, He offered a parable of the fig tree. He declared that when the fig tree's branches were yet tender, and it began to put forth leaves, one would rightly know that summer was near. He revealed that when all the things He had spoken of began to happen, one would rightly discern the end was near.

Some believe this parable refers to Israel, with her being represented in the fig tree. While Israel is described as a fig tree at times in Scripture, I am not certain He was speaking of Israel. Clearly she has become a nation again, an event that had to come to pass prior to the end, but I don't think we can be dogmatic about Jesus referring to Israel. I prefer to think He was offering a simple illustration to emphasize that the world could see the end approaching as all these events begin to transpire.

Another part of the text that has caused confusion is the reference to "this generation not passing until all these things are fulfilled." Some think Jesus spoke of the generation present that day, viewing the Olivet Discourse as a description of events that have already happened or were merely symbolic. I am convinced Jesus spoke of the rapid nature in which these events would unfold as they began to happen. The generation living when the Tribulation begins will see the entirety of these events. Once the Tribulation begins, it will continue according to God's plan, culminating with the literal return of Christ.

As we conclude our study of the Olivet Discourse, we find Jesus making a comparison to the days of Noah. The warning to prepare for rain fell on deaf ears. Many will hear the warnings of coming judgment in the end, but they too will not heed. As we examine the [details](#) within the text, I want to consider the thought: [It's Gonna' Rain](#).

**I. The Climate of that Day** (37-38) – Here Jesus spoke of the distinct social and spiritual climate that will be present on earth at the end. Notice:

**A. The Comparison** (37) – *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.* In the days leading up to, and during the Tribulation, there will be a great resemblance to the days of Noah. The climate on earth in that day will be very similar to what Noah encountered as he began to build the ark prior to the flood. As I thought of this warning, I was reminded of the passage that summarized the social and spiritual climate in Noah's day. [Gen.6:5-8 – And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.](#) <sup>[6]</sup> [And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved](#)

him at his heart. <sup>[7]</sup> And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. <sup>[8]</sup> But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

- Such attitudes and behavior will continue to deteriorate as we get closer to the Lord's return, but you have to admit that we are seeing a similar climate in our world today. Men's thoughts are continually on sin and indulgence. We need to consider though, that in the midst of judgment, there was grace. The wrath of God will be poured out as He judges sin, but even then there will be 144,000 Christian evangelist proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.

**B. The Concentration** (38) – For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. Prior to the flood, those who lived in Noah's day went about their daily lives. They were eating and drinking, people were getting married, and life seemed to be normal for that time. In fact, all seemed well; nothing was viewed as urgent or unusual. There was little to no concern about what was to come.

- It is interesting that Jesus only mentioned activities that appealed to the flesh. There is no mention of the majority showing any concern for the things of God or the moral decline. They were focused on satisfying the flesh. You will have to agree that our society has reached that point today. People continue to live their lives in the midst of such depravity and have no genuine concern. Pleasing the flesh at all cost has become the rallying cry of the masses.

**C. The Continuation** (38) – For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark. Their lack of concern and determination to satisfy the flesh continued until the day Noah entered the ark. The people refused to heed the warning of Noah and continued in rebellion until the rains descended and judgment came upon them. There was no repentance or remorse for their sin.

- Most believers are alarmed at the condition of our world, but it will not improve. The moral decline will actually get worse as we get closer to the Lord's return. Our world has no desire to serve the Lord, nor do they desire a relationship with Him. 2 Tim.3:1, 13 – This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. <sup>[13]</sup> But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

**II. The Complacency in that Day** (39) – And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Jesus spoke of the complacency and disregard for the judgment to come in the end times. Consider:

**A. The Disregard** (39a) – **And knew not until the flood came.** Those in Noah's day continued to live their lives of rebellion and indulgence until it was too late. They refused to heed the warning, and continued in sin until the rains descended and the flood waters began to rise. These refused to repent or seek the Lord.

- While a multitude no man can number will be saved during the Tribulation, millions will deny the truth, embracing the lies of anti-Christ and rush headlong into judgment while refusing to repent or seek the Lord. These will not believe until they see the Lord coming in the clouds of glory, but then it will be too late. They will have squandered the grace that was extended and now face the wrath of God as He judges their sin.

**B. The Defiance** (39a) – **And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away.** Like in Noah's day, these will remain defiant until the end. Noah preached judgment and the need for repentance, but they refused. The world at large will deny the message of the Tribulation evangelists, choosing to embrace the anti-Christ while denying the truth of the Gospel. They will have rejected the grace of God and now face His undiluted wrath. When grace is rejected, judgment is all that remains!

**C. The Declaration** (39b) – **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** Jesus declared those in the end will behave much like those in Noah's day. The world is blessed to have the message of the Gospel shared today. We are living in the day of grace. Now is the time to repent and respond by faith. Unfortunately, the majority will live their lives of indulgence, never submitting to the will of God and receiving salvation. Those who die apart from Christ will face judgment at the great White Throne. Those who deny Him and are living when He returns will face His judgment then and again at the Judgment Day.

**III. The Clarity in that Day** (40-41) – **Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.** <sup>[41]</sup> **Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.** Finally Jesus spoke of those who remain in that day and how they will be dealt with. Consider:

**A. The Association** – Clearly there will be believers and unbelievers working together and living in close proximity to each other. Two will be working together in the field, one will be taken unto the Lord and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding at a mill, one will be taken and the other left. This is a sobering truth. All who live in that day will not be saved by grace. The same is true today. We all know those who stand in need of salvation. We must do all we can to share the Gospel with them in this life, before it is eternally too late.

**B. The Separation** – The saved and unsaved may dwell together during the Tribulation, but there will come a day of separation. Those who have received the Lord by grace through faith, being saved and added to the body of Christ will be taken unto the Lord. These will escape the wrath to come as the Lord judges sin, Satan, the anti-Christ, and all those who believed the lie. Those who are left will be forced to face His wrath in judgment. The saved by grace will inherit eternal life in heaven while those who have denied the Gospel will be judged and cast into the lake of fire, eternally separated from God.

- This separation will happen just as the Lord proclaimed. All of the saved, but only those who have received Christ as Savior will inhabit heaven. Not a one will be left out. However, all who rejected Christ in this life will not have another chance to believe. Their eternal destiny was sealed as they decided to reject the Lord's grace in salvation. Our bodies will return to the dust of the earth, but we all have a spirit that will live forever, either in heaven or hell. Now is the time to repent of sin and respond to the Gospel of grace!

**Conclusion:** This has been an enlightening and sobering passage. One cannot deny that the day Jesus described is much like the climate we currently experience on a daily basis. I am convinced the Lord's return is close at hand. Do you know Christ as your Savior? Have you responded to His gracious offer for salvation? If not, don't put it off. Tomorrow may be too late. If you are burdened about a friend or loved one, why not come and pray for wisdom to share the Gospel with them.