

The Budding of the Fig Tree

a discussion of this expression by Michael J. Galus, 11-08-2023

“The Budding of the Fig Tree” is a popular expression among dispensationalists and it has become popular even in the broader evangelical church.

It is found in Luke chapter 21, verse 29 and 30, where Jesus said, *“Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that Summer is now near.”* (NKJV)

The dispensationalist claims that in this verse, Jesus is referring to the nation of Israel, as represented by the budding of the fig tree, and that this verse is prophetic in that it was fulfilled in 1948 when Israel became a nation again.

Let us go to that passage as recorded by Luke in his gospel account and see for ourselves if the statement Jesus made about the budding of the fig tree has anything at all to do with the nation of Israel.

First of all, Jesus doesn’t just refer to a single fig tree in these verses, but He says, *“and all the trees.”* He is directing His listeners to consider the coming of Summer as seen in nature when all the trees will soon be growing new leaves because the buds have already appeared.

“When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that Summer is now near.” (verse 30)

When we examine the broader context where Jesus makes this statement, we find that Jesus is not referring to the nation of Israel, but to His second coming and the consummation of His kingdom at the end of the world.

*“So you also, when you see **these things** (the “things” He spoke of in verses 25-28) happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.”* (verse 31)

It is the events that He spoke of in verses 25-28 that just precede His second Coming that are represented by the buds forming on all the trees as Summer (His Coming), approaches. There is a similar account given in Matthew chapter 24:29-35. In that account Jesus only refers to a fig tree putting forth leaves, but the context and meaning will be shown to be the same as that given in Luke chapter 21.

Our Conclusion: The ‘Budding of the Fig Tree’ does not refer to the nation of Israel nor with Israel becoming a nation again in 1948.