

This MYSTERY tells us WHEN
JESUS is COMING BACK...



**END
TIMES
BEREAN**
LAST DAYS HERALD

THE FIG TREE AND THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

- In Matthew 24, Jesus gave us a MYSTERY.
- He said that “the Fig Tree” would be a sign for us to know when His return is near.
- He said that the generation who saw it would not all pass away before He returned.

THE RETURN OF JESUS

²⁹ “Immediately after the suffering of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. – Matthew 24:29-31

THE FIG TREE

Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. – Matthew 24:32-34



- Is the return of Israel the budding of the fig tree?
- And when is the end of "*this generation*"?

THE RETURN OF ISRAEL

*Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? **Can a country be born in a day** or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. – Isaiah 66:8*

- May 14, 1948
 - David Ben Gurion declared the birth of the state of Israel.
- June 7, 1967
 - Israel retakes East Jerusalem in the Six Day War.



A GENERATION

*The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness **forty years** until all the men who were of military age (over 20) when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. – Joshua 5:6*

*Our days may come to **seventy years, or eighty,** if our strength endures. – Psalm 90:10*

*Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be **a hundred and twenty years.**” – Genesis 6:3*

- ... 40 years? ... 60 years? ... 70-80 years? ... 120 years?

DID JESUS MEAN 40 YEARS?

- No, because those windows have passed...
- ~~1948 + 40 years = 1988~~
- ~~1967 + 40 years = 2007~~
- What about 30-33 AD to 70 AD? Isn't that within 40 years?

WAS 70 AD THE FULFILLMENT OF “THIS GENERATION?”

1. Jesus said it would be a generation where **“all these things”** happened—Jesus did not return in power and glory in 70 AD—therefore, it can’t be.
2. Israel, who is represented by the fig tree, **was still in leaf when Jesus was speaking**--they had not yet withered and gone into a long winter.

Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

– Matthew 23:38 NASB

⁴³ For the days will come upon you when your enemies will put up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and they will level you to the ground, and throw down your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.

– Luke 19:43-44 NASB

*When disaster comes to a city, has
not the Lord caused it?*

– Amos 3:6b NIV

ISRAEL, THE WITHERED FIG TREE

After noticing a fig tree by the road he went to it, but found nothing on it except leaves. He said to it, "Never again will there be fruit from you!" And the fig tree withered at once. – Matthew 21:19 NET

- Certainly, parts of Matthew 24 spoke of the destruction of Jerusalem and were partially fulfilled in 70 AD when the fig tree withered.
- But after 1,878 years, when Israel became a nation, truly, the fig tree budded once again.

NOT THE SEASON FOR FIGS

- But doesn't Mark 11:13 say that it was not the season for figs?
- Yes, but there is an **early crop** of figs and a late crop.
- It should have had early figs...



ISRAEL REGATHERED IN THE LAST DAYS

Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover with His hand the second time the remnant of His people who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. — Isaiah 11:11

- The first regathering was in Ezra and Nehemiah when the temple was rebuilt (c. 516-409 B.C.)
- The phrase “a second time” is **OUR TIME** and “on that day” refers to the last days and the reign of the Messiah, which is **COMING SOON**.



COUNTING 60, 70, 80, 120 YEARS

- ~~$1948 + 60 \text{ years} = 2008$~~

- $1967 + 60 \text{ years} = 2027$

- $1948 + 70 (80) \text{ years} = 2018 - 2028$

- $1967 + 70 (80) \text{ years} = 2037 - 2047$

- $1948 + 120 \text{ years} = 2068$

- $1967 + 120 \text{ years} = 2087$

} We are
now in
this
window.

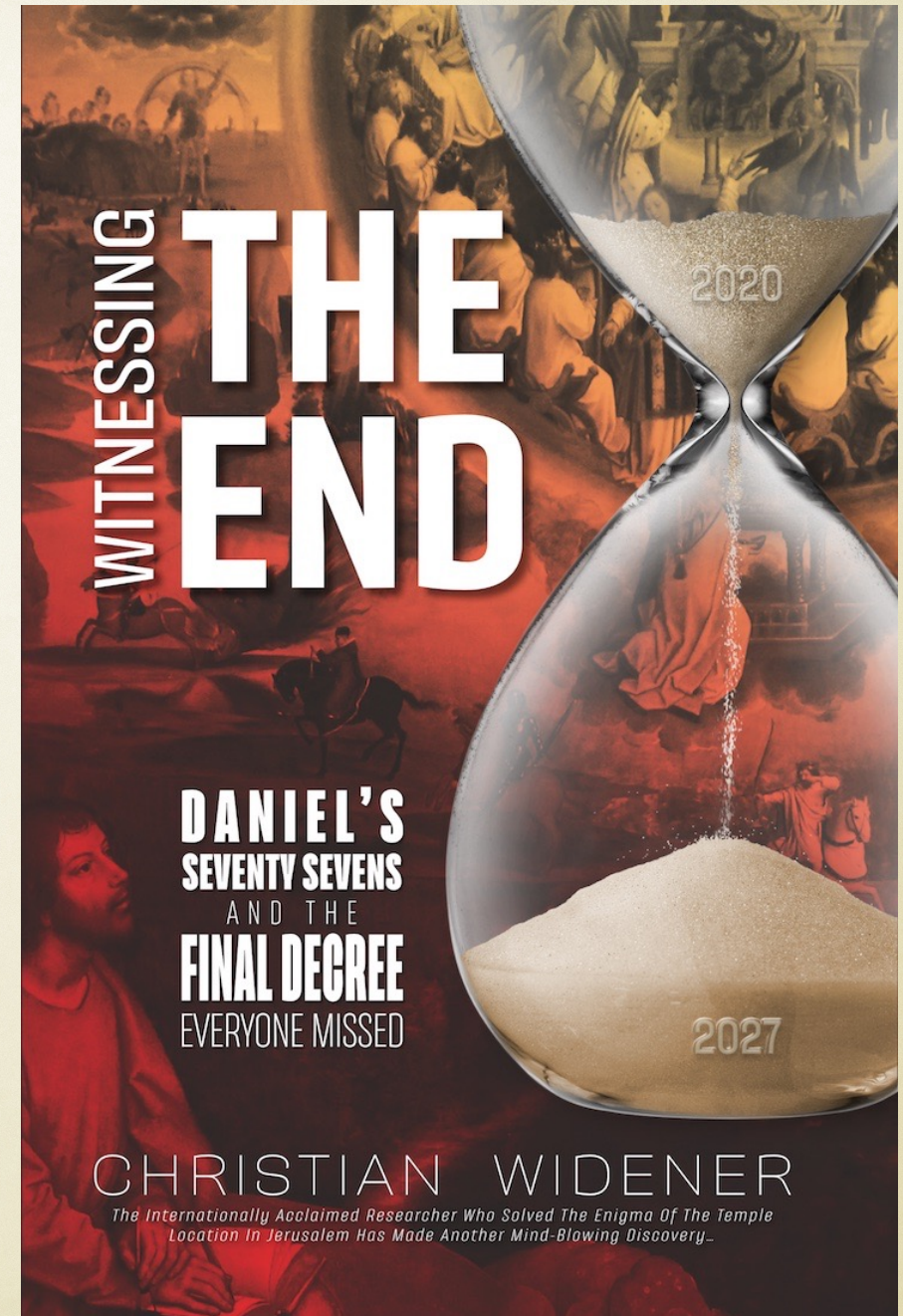
THEN THE NATIONS WILL KNOW

Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.

— Ezekiel 36:36

WITNESSING THE END

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