

# Matthew 24:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

## Analysis

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**Now learn a parable of the fig tree**—The Greek parabolē (παραβολή) means comparison, and Jesus shifts from apocalyptic vision to agricultural observation. **When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves** (hapalos, ἀπαλός = tender/soft), you recognize the pattern of seasons. The fig tree (sykē, συκῆ) was a common Palestinian symbol, leafing out in late spring, signaling summer's approach.

This isn't identifying Israel as 'the fig tree' (though figs symbolize Israel in Jeremiah 24, Hosea 9:10), but teaching discernment of signs. Just as farmers read nature's signals, disciples must recognize prophetic fulfillment—temple destruction, tribulation, cosmic signs—as harbingers of the final harvest. Jesus moves from 'when' questions to 'watchfulness' imperatives.

## Historical Context

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Fig trees were ubiquitous in first-century Judea, making this an accessible illustration. The agricultural calendar governed Jewish feast days and daily life. Jesus spoke this parable on the Mount of Olives (24:3) in sight of the temple, perhaps with fig trees visible. Three days earlier, He had cursed a barren fig tree (21:18-22), symbolizing Israel's fruitlessness—now He uses figs to teach discernment.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What 'signs of the times' in current events do you discern as evidence of prophetic fulfillment or spiritual seasons?
2. How can you cultivate the spiritual discernment to read the times without falling into date-setting speculation?
3. What is the difference between healthy watchfulness for Christ's return and unhealthy obsession with prophecy charts?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἀπὸ	δὲ	τῆς	συκῆς	μάθετε	τὴν	παραβολήν·	ὅταν	ἤδη
<b>of</b> G575	<b>Now</b> G1161	G3588	<b>the fig tree</b> G4808	<b>learn</b> G3129	G3588	<b>a parable</b> G3850	<b>When</b> G3752	<b>yet</b> G2235
ὁ	κλάδος	αὐτῆς	γένηται	ἀπαλὸς	καὶ	τὰ	φύλλα	
G3588	<b>branch</b> G2798	<b>his</b> G846	<b>is</b> G1096	<b>tender</b> G527	<b>and</b> G2532	G3588	<b>leaves</b> G5444	
ἐκφύη	γινώσκετε	ὅτι	ἐγγὺς	τὸ	θέρος·			
<b>putteth forth</b> G1631	<b>ye know</b> G1097	<b>that</b> G3754	<b>is nigh</b> G1451	G3588	<b>summer</b> G2330			