

PALM SUNDAY

THE COMING OF THE KING

MARK 11:8-21

Sultan Ibrahim
arrives in KL
to take oath
as new King

31 January 2024





9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See,
your king comes to
you, righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey, on
a colt, the foal of a donkey.

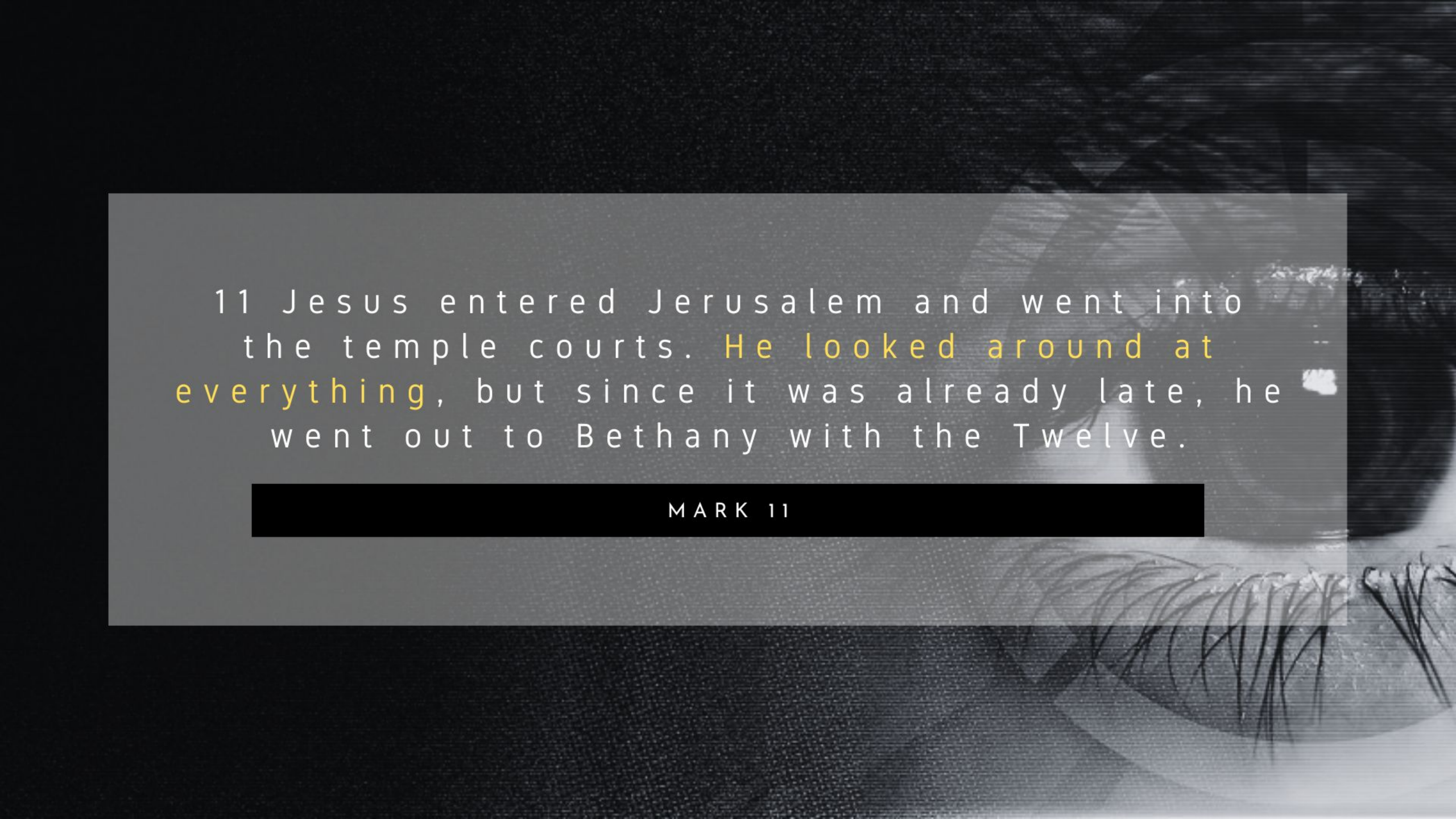
@zechariah9:9



HOSANNA


8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" 10 "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Mark 11



11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

MARK 11



This was an official visit of the King of Israel, an inspection tour of the heart of the nation. He went into the temple, where the very heartbeat of the nation was throbbing, represented in the worship that was lifted up to God.

RAY C STEDMAN



The Fig Tree Cursed

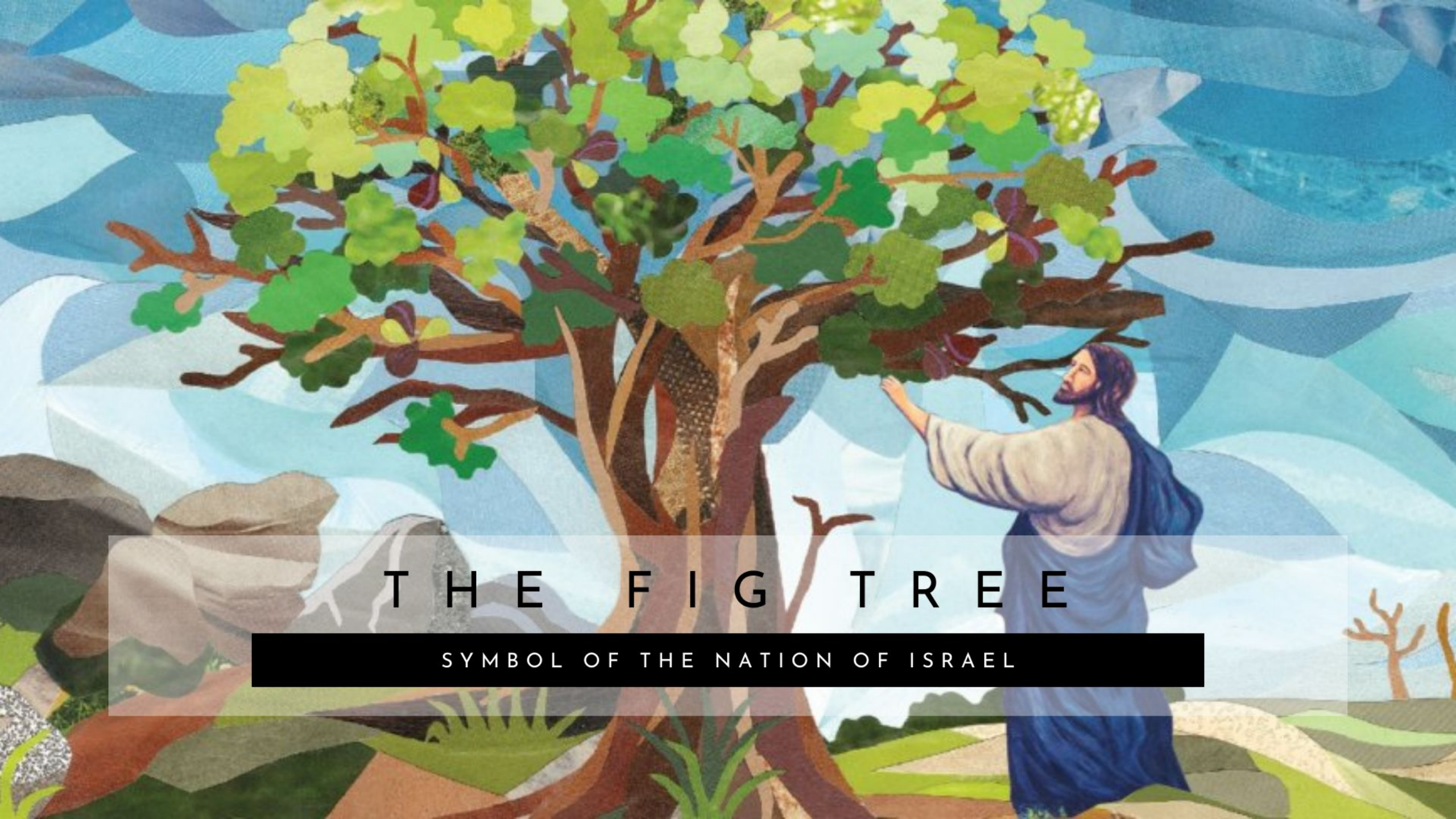
12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. 14 Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.”
And **his disciples heard him say it.**

Mark 11



'The time of the fig is not yet,' says Mark, for it was just before Passover, about 6 weeks before fully-formed fig appears. The fact that Mark adds these words shows that he knew what he was talking about. When the fig leaves appear before the end of March, they are accompanied by a crop of small knobs, called taqsh, a sort of fore-runner of the real figs. These taqsh are eaten by peasants and others when hungry. They drop off before the real fig is formed. But if the leaves appear unaccompanied by taqsh, there will be no figs that year. So it was evident to our Lord, when he turned aside to see if there were any of these taqsh on the fig tree to assuage his hunger for the time being, that the absence of the taqsh meant that there would be no figs when the time of figs come. For all its fair foliage, it was a fruitless and hopeless tree.

F.F. Bruce



T H E F I G T R E E

SYMBOL OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Early Figs

1 What misery is mine! I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is no cluster of grapes to eat, none of the early figs that I crave.

Micah 7

13 When I wanted to gather them, says the Lord, there are no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree; even the leaves are withered, and what I gave them has passed away from them.

Jeremiah 8 (NRSV)





Expected Fruit

Jesus ought to expect a lot of piety in the temple. There should be people thankful for God's blessings, and so bringing thank-offerings to the temple. There should be people broken on account of their sins, and so bringing their sin-offerings to the temple. There should be priests officiating at the sacrifices and explaining to the people each step of the ritual – that God's justice demanded that the sinner dies on account of his sin but God, in his mercy, allows the sin to be transferred to the animal with the animal being killed instead. The priests should be explaining to the forgiven Israelite that he has every reason to be thankful for God's gracious grace and mercy, and that he is to show his thankfulness by living a life of obedience to God.

Rev C Bouwman



The Temple Is Cleansed

(Jesus) saw commercialism, moneychangers, exploitation, corruption and injustice. He saw that religious ceremonies were being carried out without meaning whatsoever.

Ray C Stedman

15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves,

Mark 11



Cleansed From Commercialism

17 And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” (Mark 11)

Business Before Prayers, Thievery Before Sacrifices



Ministry Interrupted

16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. (Mark 11)

God had instituted a certain set of rituals for that temple which necessitated that the priests would carry many things through it. They had to bring the animals into the temple, bind them upon the altar, and slay them. They had to catch the blood of these animals and carry it in basins into the holy place to sprinkle it on the altar of incense. They had to take the bodies of the sacrifices, after they were burned, and carry them back out again. So, there was a continual procession of priests through that temple all day long, carrying out the system of rituals which God himself had given this nation.

(Ray C. Stedman, "The King Is Coming")

Death of Jesus Sealed

18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

Mark 11





Doom of Israel Sealed

20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!”

Mark 11



THE
KING
IS COMING



6 Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig-tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, "For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig-tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?" 8 "Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig round it and fertilise it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

Luke 13



Fruit-Bearing Disciples

5 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

John 15

Faith



Abiding In Christ

