

Mk series pt 55

•	Pastor Chuck's Message	•	When Pastor Chuck got it wrong
•	Less offensive	•	How did pastor Chuck get it so wrong?
		•	Why Calvary Chapel got the End Times Wrong
		•	A Message We Made & We Need to Learn From It
		•	Calvary Chapel, We Are Making Mistakes Here
		•	Why Calvary Chapel Got the End Times Wrong
		•	The Big Time That Awaits
		•	Did Pastor Chuck Predict the 2 nd Coming?

- Pastor Chuck Smith
 - Founder
 - I'm deeply grateful for him.
 - Did predict that Jesus would return in 1988.
 - And the rapture by 1981
 - And it was based on scripture taken out of context.
 - We still do it.
- Why?
 - I'm a Calvary pastor.
 - I LOVE Calvary Chapel
 - Commitment to the Word
 - Evangelism
 - Not divisive
 - Deeply appreciate pastor Chuck
 - Commitment and example
 - SOM
 - I first heard it in Chuck tapes
 - Questions
 - Wikipedia
 - Articles
 - Not just once...
 - Multiple books
 - Snatched Away
 - End Times
 - Future Survival
 - Ongoing problems in interpretation
- The text
 - **Mark 13:28–30 (NASB95)**
 - 28**“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
 - 29**“Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.
 - 30**“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.
- From END TIMES 1978 & 1980
 - Isn't giving a day
 - *“Before we begin to look at the situation, let me emphasize one point. I have no intention of telling you the day that the Lord is coming for His Church [rapture]. I don't know that day. Nobody knows that day or hour.” - Introduction*
 - Seems to think that you can still predict the year
 - When
 - *“If I understand Scripture correctly, Jesus taught us that the generation which sees the “budding of the fig tree,” the birth of the nation Israel, will be the generation that sees the Lord's return. I believe that the generation of 1948 is the last generation. Since a generation of judgment is forty years and the Tribulation period lasts seven years, I believe the Lord could come back for His*

Church any time before the Tribulation starts, which would mean anytime before 1981. (1948+40-7=1981)” – pg 35

- Alternately
 - “However, it is possible that Jesus is dating the beginning of the generation from 1967 when Jerusalem was again under Israeli control for the first time since 587 B.C. We don’t know for sure which year actually makes the beginning of the last generation.”
- Attitude (embarrassing)
 - “The Church ought to be looking up, expecting and looking for our Lord. We should be proclaiming to the world: “The end of the world!”” – pg 83
- From “Future Survival” 1978
 - “From my understanding of biblical prophecies, I’m convinced that the Lord is coming for His Church [rapture] before the end of 1981. I could be wrong, but it’s a deep conviction in my heart, and all my plans are predicated on upon that belief.” – pg. 20
 - “The Lord said that towards the end of the Tribulation period the sun would scorch men who dwell upon the face of the earth (Rev. 16). The year 1986 would fit just about right.” – Pg. 21
 - Fig Tree
 - “From a biblical standpoint, one of the reasons I believe that man has come to the end of his time is the rebirth of the nation Israel. It is an event that was predicted by most of the Bible prophets and by Jesus Christ, Himself. As He gave the signs of the last days, He told His disciples that when the fig tree began to bud forth, they would know that summer was nigh. “Even know,” He said, “My coming is at the door.” Then Jesus said that the generation would not pass until all of these things be fulfilled [Matthew 24:32-34]. So, the rebirth of the nation Israel marks the final generation of man upon the earth in this present order.” – Pg. 49
 - Don’t quit your job
 - *“I should not quit my job. I should not borrow as much long-term money as I possibly can. The Lord told us to “occupy” until He comes.”* – pg 35
 - Again, after predicting 1981 as a likely year for the rapture...
 - *“Be diligent about the things of the Lord and yet practical about your life. Don’t quit your job. Don’t quit school. But all the while look up and lift up your head, for your redemption is drawing nigh.”* – Pg 36
 - Conclusions
 - Not a spiritual prophecy
 - Not a false prophet
 - Not without caveat
 - I’m convinced, not “this is undeniably true”
 - Full of problems
 - The fig tree is Israel as a nation
 - Guesses about the EC
 - The 10 nations - EC (European Community, now the EU)
 - Over 20 nations today
 - Was it clearly prophecy fulfilled?
 - NO, but it COULD lead to it
 - EFT
 - Was it fulfillment?
 - No, but could lead to it.
 - Russia’s future
 - Was it fulfillment?
 - No, but it could lead to it.

- Earthquake predictions
 - Was it fulfillment?
 - No, AND it isn't a sign
 - Didn't happen
- Never addressed... never.
 - Not that I know of.
 - Sadly – audio – December 1996
- Seems misleading
 - I'd like to help clear the air
- HUGE lessons for us
 - We need a gut punch.
 - Some of these speculations/predictions are...
 - Irresponsible
 - and misinterpret the Bible
- Vs by vs – This passage.

Mark 13:28–31 (NASB95)

²⁸“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

²⁹“Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

³⁰“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

³¹“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

- The fig tree prophecy
 - Many used to date the return of Christ
 - 1948 – 1988 with 1981 rapture
 - Perhaps from the six days war
 - 1967 – 2007 with 2000 rapture
 - This generation will not pass away
 - 40 years
- What is the fig tree?
- “Generation” – what and when?
- What is the fig tree?
 - Should I think the fig tree is Israel?
 - Survey of several uses of “fig tree” symbolically in the Bible – in order
 - 1st – No. Judges 9:10-11
 - Fig tree (and other fruit bearing plants) represent good descendants of Gideon who refused to be king of Israel. The bramble is Abimelech.
 - 2nd – No. 1 Kings 4:25
 - A man sitting under his fig tree (or vine) is a picture of peace and prosperity
 - 3rd – No. Prov 27:18
 - The fig tree represents a man's master. You take care of it, it takes care of you.
 - 4th – No. Song 2:13
 - The fig tree puts out green figs and this symbolizes that the time for love has arrived. It's a seasonal signal. This is closest to Jesus' teaching so far.
 - ***Song of Solomon 2:13 (NASB95) ¹³“The fig tree has ripened its figs, And the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance. Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along!”***
 - 5th – No. Isaiah 34:4
 - The “fig tree” represents global catastrophe

- ²⁸“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹“Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.
 - The SIGNS

- Let’s look at it all in context
 - Pointing out mistakes

Mark 13:1–31 (NASB95)

¹As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”

²And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

³As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,

⁴“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

⁵And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.

⁶“Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and will mislead many.

⁷“When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end.

⁸“For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

- 1- Not signs
 - Claims of Jesus’ return
 - Various cults
 - Wars
 - Rumors of wars
 - Earthquakes
 - Famines
 - Mt 24:7 adds “pestilence”
 - So, calm down

⁹“But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.

¹⁰“The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

¹¹“When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.

¹²“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

¹³“You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

- Our mission – gospel
 - Prepared for suffering
 - Application: eschatology of escape is problematic.

¹⁴“But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

- This is a sign to watch for... the first.

¹⁵“The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house;

¹⁶and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat.

¹⁷“But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

18“But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

19“For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.

20“Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

21“And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him;

22for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

- Expect even more false Christ claims than

23“But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

24“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light,

25and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

- Cosmic signs
 - A second sign

26“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

27“And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

28“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

29“Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

- What’s the budding of the fig tree?
 - Not wars, etc.
 - AofD and Cosmic Signs
- Jesus gave a LIST of signs/not signs
 - Never mentioned...
 - Israel becoming a nation
 - Jerusalem under Jewish control
 - Temple being rebuilt
 - That doesn’t come from Scripture – it comes from tradition

30“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

31“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

- What is the generation? genea
 - Possible meanings
 - Ethnic group (clan, race, kind)
 - Jerome – 4th century
 - BDAG offers one example in the NT
 - Luke 16:8 (NASB95) ⁸“And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.
 - Jews
 - Christians
 - Wicked people
 - People of a chronological generation
 - 40 years – 70 years – 100 years
- WHEN is the generation?
 - Summary

In all three there is a connection to the cosmic signs.

There may be a connection in Mt and possibly in Mk, to the tribulation itself. But not in Lk.

Darrel Bock's commentaries on Mt, Mk and Lk gives some support

Which is interesting because Luke is more focused on the destruction of Jerusalem and not the tribulation on the world

- Explanatory scope
 - This IS a possible meaning
 - Support in context
 - BUT!
 - But it's addressed to the people listening
 - **Mark 13:14 (NASB95) ¹⁴"But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.**
 - So "this generation" needs to be the same as "when you see"
 - But it's prophecy of an unknown time
 - And, it ends with this **Mark 13:37 (NASB95) ³⁷"What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!' "**
 - In short – whoever the YOU are, who see the AofD, (Mk 13:14) it's in that generation
 - Which means the debate of 40, 70, 100 or 120 years is irrelevant
 - It's in 3-1/2 years.
 - But majority of scholars
 - That matters but it's not enough
 - When should you disagree with the majority of scholars?
 - When you have good reasons.
 - I think I have good reasons.
 - I think the majority of scholars would probably agree with that.
 - AND prog disp view explains why they see a 1st century connection
 - Important – not a bug, a feature
 - Now, something really neat
- ³¹**"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.**
- It's assurance
 - Because what He said is hard to swallow... life changing
 - But, MORE than assurance
 - Jesus is clearly claiming His words are like Scripture/Word of God
 - **Matthew 5:18 (NASB95) ¹⁸"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.**
 - **Luke 16:17 (NASB95) ¹⁷"But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.**
 - But there is something really significant about how Jesus does this differently than the OT prophets
 - "Thus says the Lord"
 - Jesus, "Thus says me"
 - Applying this to ourselves
 - Speculative end times stuff is problematic
 - It is exciting but can have a bad end result
 - Embarrassment
 - Casting doubt on prophecy
 - People falling away
 - You are confusing your speculations with Scripture
 - Can you do it?
 - You must have great wisdom and restraint
 - But we keep rewarding the reckless!
 - Non-leaders – don't reward the reckless.

- Why I still respect pastor Chuck
 - The word
 - The heart
 - I don't respect how this issue seems to have been handled.
 - The UPSIDE of "coming soon" preaching
 - People get serious real quick
 - And they SHOULD
 - We are not promised tomorrow.
 - The coming is within a generation for YOU.
 - And that might be today.
 - Get serious... salvation is an urgent issue
 - ***Isaiah 55:6–7 (NASB95) ⁶Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.***
 - Repent and believe
- Next week
 - Why didn't Jesus know the day or hour
 - Stay awake
 - Need this SO bad

