

another evidence that the fig tree is putting forth new leaves, and we receive additional assurance that Christ will return and set up His kingdom upon this earth, as He has promised.

Verse 35. This verse stresses again the theme of the whole section of four verses. Though heaven and earth pass away, the words of Christ cannot pass away. What He has promised is absolutely sure. The Jewish nation will continue until His return. His return is absolutely sure. The Christian is to wait for it, and to be ready when He comes.

2. Unexpectedness of the End of the Age, vv. 36-42.

Verse 36. Our first section stressed the certainty of Christ's return. This section stresses the fact that we do not know when He will come. Its first verse gives the general theme. Not even the angels of God know when Christ is coming; only the Father knows (cf. Mark 13:13).

Verses 37-39. These verses contain an illustration of the suddenness of that stupendous event. In the days of Noah, life was going on in normal course; people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. There was nothing to suggest that the age was coming to an end. Sometimes people think that the comparison with the days of Noah indicates an evil condition of the age immediately before the Lord's return. These verses contain no such suggestion. There is nothing wrong in "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage." These are simply the normal occurrences of life. In Noah's day things were going on as usual, when suddenly Noah entered into the ark, and the people knew nothing about what was happening until after his departure, when the flood came and took them all away.

"So shall also the coming of the Son of man be." While the ungodly man is thinking that everything is normal, God will take