

They're At It AGAIN!

Exposing Yet Another False Teaching of Some Pre-Tribulation Rapture Defenders

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Clarification: The “It” of the title above is this: Falsely Twisting Scripture.

Do you recall one of the **most basic** hermeneutical principles after the main principle: *Allow the Word of God to say what it actually says* – OBSERVE (exegete) the text, don't eisegete it! ?

Well, in answer to the question immediately above, it is this: Observe the passage under consideration **in its context** !

Once again, most Pre-Trib advocates do NOT always honor these two basic interpretation principles.

In the case of our concern in [this](#) article: They do NOT let the following text – the Fig Tree parable – SAY what it clearly says. They also do NOT honor the observing of this text in its immediate context.

Instead, appealing to symbolism, some use Old Testament passages to teach the parable of our Lord Jesus means something very different than what is explicitly stated. [Amir Tsarfati in his book, *Has the Tribulation Begun?* provides a somewhat recent example – see pp. 138 – 141. He employs one Old Testament verse (Hosea 9:10) to help support his false interpretation of this parable. Amir's words, not mine: "... So, what is this parable telling us? When you see the fig tree budding and pushing forth leaves, know that the end is coming. The fig tree is Israel, and Israel has more than budded. It has pushed out its leaves and is now producing massive amounts of fruit. ..." pg. 141.]

Here's what the passage actually says: “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” Matthew 24:32-35 (NKJV)

Now, read the passage in its full context. What are the “all these things” of verse 33? Our Lord's teaching here is very clear. Why would some Pre-Trib defenders twist it? Simply answered ... simply stated: It's because the DATA (that which Christ Jesus chronologically lists in verses 4-31) in this passage teaches signs take place **before** our Lord's return to the earth. (Mt. 25:31) A couple of the signs include His initial appearing (24:30) and the **rapture gathering** of His elect (24:31). Recall: Verse 33 says “ALL these things.” What “things”? Those events listed prior to the fig-tree parable ... that which takes place in verses 4-31. Our Lord's teaching here DENIES Pre-Tribulation Rapture tradition! (Please see Mark 7 on this matter of putting traditions above the Word of God.)

Instead of honoring the context of the fig tree parable, some Pre-Tribulationists impose a foreign thought into the text. Brothers and Sisters in Christ who persist in teaching the incorrect timing of the Rapture of God's people in Jesus Christ: Please stop *reading into the text!* Because the actual context of this parable is found in Matthew 24, we can Truthfully say: “This growing popular interpretation of some Pre-Trib. Rapture apologists commits this SIN: Misinterpretation of the explicit data of the text.” Because they say their understanding is the correct one – which DENYS the actual stated message of the parable [please review the passage above once again!] – their teaching is not only MIS-information, it is DIS-information. Please don't buy their weak interpretations concerning this important end-time parable! Honor Scripture and let our Lord say what He actually says! These days, correct *watching* requires we allow God's Word to say what He (Christ Jesus – the Incarnate Word) and it (the written Word of God) actually /explicitly say. (Mark 13:37)