

Chapter III

The Land

Budding of the Fig Tree

Today God is doing a new thing and sadly to say, many do not know it. Isaiah 43:19 “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, [and] rivers in the desert.” Many students of prophecy have no problem realizing that God is fulfilling the prophecy concerning Israel today. But what they do not know is that God is taking the various scriptures on prophecy and putting them on the postage stamps of Israel. He is causing some of the designers of the stamps of Israel to illustrate the fulfillment of a number of these prophecies with pictures on their postage stamps.

In Mark 13:28-31 Jesus talks about the budding of the fig tree which concerns prophecy in relation to the development of the land of Israel. Jesus said: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, *even* at the doors.

30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

On September 3, 1952, the Israelis published a stamp with which to mail their letters that had a picture of a limb of a fig tree with two figs on it, and quoted in Hebrew on the stamp's tab are the words from

Song of Solomon 2:13 "The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines *with* the tender grape give a *good* smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."



Inscription: “Joyous Festivals”
“The fig tree putteth forth her green figs”

Designer: O. Wallish

Day of Issue: September 3, 1952

Motif: Symbolic design. The theme of the stamp is based on the “Song Of Solomon”.

Inscription on Tabs: Song of Solomon 2:13

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This stamp illustrates that the budding of the fig tree has happened.

Now what do we mean by the budding of the fig tree? Over 3,200 years ago when Moses approached the land of Israel and sent out the spies, the land then flowed with milk and honey. The land was occupied by giants, the sons of Anak. The Israelites felt like they were grasshoppers, not only in relation to the giants, but also to the growth and production of the land. The fruit of the land was of enormous size, to the point that one grape would be about the size of

a modern-day cantaloupe or possibly even a watermelon. It took two men to carry one cluster of grapes, and they had to put it on a pole between them. Therefore, you can imagine the delight and excitement of the Jews concerning this potential Garden of Eden. However, their hearts were filled with fear because of the giants, and because of their lack of faith, they wandered in the wilderness for forty years before entering into the land.

On September 8, 1954, the Israelis published a postage stamp with the picture of two men carrying a cluster of grapes on a pole between them, and quoted in Hebrew on the stamp's tab is

Numbers 13:27 "And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it."



Inscription: "Joyous Festivals 5715"

Designer: G. Hamori

Day of Issue: September 8, 1954

Motif: Based on a verse from the fourth book of Moses.

Inscription on Tabs: "The land ..it floweth with milk and honey" Numbers 13:27

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This postage stamp is reminding the Israelis of how the land used to be 3,200 years ago.

God tells the Jews that if they do not follow his teachings, not only would they be scattered to other nations, but the land would become desolate.

Leviticus 26:31-35 "And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.

32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye *be* in your enemies' land; *even* then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.

35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it."

It is past history how the Jews disobeyed God, were scattered to the nations of the world, and how the land became desolate to such an extent that nothing would grow on the land for 2,800 years. Until 1949, the land of Israel was barren and waste. All of the food had to be imported into the towns and villages.

In 1971 the Israelis published a postage stamp showing a picture of the desolate land that is South of the Dead Sea, reminding everyone how the land used to be in those 2,800 years until 1949.



Inscription: Negev
Designer: ROLI - G. Rothschild & Z. Lippmann.
Day of Issue: October 25, 1971
Motif: Landscapes of Israel
Inscription on Tabs: Israel Landscapes

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The prophecy concerning the land being tilled is found in Ezekiel 36:34 "And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by,"

This prophecy is being fulfilled today, and the Israelis are reminding the people of its fulfillment by their postage stamps.

The Israelis published a stamp on August 21, 1963, with the picture of a hoe clearing a field of thistles.



Inscription:
Designer: E. Weishoff
Day of Issue: August 21, 1963
Motif: Symbolical. A hoe clearing a field of
Inscription on Tabs: The year of the pioneers

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Another stamp was published on December 31, 1952, with the symbolic design of a tractor and plow and a team of horses with a plow, illustrating the fact that the land is now being tilled. In 1948



Inscription: "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us go
Designer: G. Hamori
Day of Issue: December 31, 1952
Motif: Symbolic design. The stamp shows the number "70" and therein symbols of agriculture.
Inscription on Tabs: 1882 - 1952 The mountains of
 Seventieth anniversary of the immigration of "Bilu"

the Israelis cultivated only 412,000 acres of land, by 1970 they had increased the cultivated areas to 1,058,000 acres, making this prophecy of Ezekiel 36:34 literally fulfilled.

On June 24, 1951, the Israelis published a stamp with the picture of a team of horses and a plow and quoted in Hebrew on the stamp's tab is

Leviticus 25:23 "The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land *is* mine; for ye *are* strangers and sojourners with me." This stamp reminds the Israelis that not only is the land being tilled, but it will remain their land.



Inscription: 50th anniversary of the Keren Kayemet Le-Isra'el 5711, Zion

Designer: Wind Struski

Day of Issue: June 24, 1951

Motif: Symbolic design

Inscription on Tabs: "The land shall not be sold forever"
Leviticus 25:23

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On September 7, 1965, the Israelis published a series of six stamps showing in symbolic form the restoration of the world as described in Genesis, chapter 1. These stamps are reminding the Israelis that what is happening to their land today is to be compared almost to that of the restoration, in that the desolate land is becoming like the garden of Eden.

Ezekiel 36:35 "And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities *are become* fenced, *and* are inhabited."



Inscription on Tabs:

One Day Second Day Third Day Fourth Day Fifth Day Sixth Day

Inscription: Joyous Festivals 5726

Designer: A. Kalderon

Day of Issue: September 7, 1965

Motif: Symbolical. "The Creation", described in the first book of Moses, chapter 1.

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The prophecy concerning how the land of Israel is to be is illustrated on a series of seven postage stamps published by the Israelis on August 27, 1958 and September 9, 1959. Each stamp quotes the scripture Deuteronomy 8:8 on the tab of the stamp and has the picture of one of the items on each of the stamps. Today in Israel, these particular items are now growing in abundance.



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Inscription: Joyous Festivals 5719

Designer: Z. Narkiss

Day of Issue: August 27, 1958

Motif: Four of the seven species mentioned in the Bible

Inscription on Tabs: "A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey"
 Deuteronomy 8:8



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Inscription: Joyous Festivals 5720

Designer: Z. Narkiss

Day of Issue: September 9, 1959

Motif: The last three of the seven species mentioned in the Bible

Inscription on Tabs: "A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey"
 Deuteronomy 8:8

The Bible not only prophesied that the land of Israel would be cultivated and developed again, but the land would be better this time than it was at the beginning.

Ezekiel 36:8-11 "But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come.

9 For, behold, I *am* for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown:

10 And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, *even* all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded:

11 And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better *unto you* than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD."

Here we have the prophecy not only concerning the full development of the land but also that the land would be better than at the beginning.

On May 20, 1956, Israel published a postage stamp with the picture of oranges on it, reminding the Israelis that they are now becoming a self-sustaining nation.



Inscription: The Fourth International Congress of Mediterranean Citrus Growers - 1956

Designer: M. & G. Shamir

Day of Issue: May 20, 1956

Motif: A branch with "Jaffa" oranges grown in Israel

Inscription on Tabs: The Fourth International Congress of Mediterranean Citrus Growers

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In 1971 I visited the land of Israel while attending the Jerusalem Conference on Biblical Prophecy. There I met a young Jewish man at the Wailing Wall. In our course of conversation, I found that this young Jewish man was born and raised in Colorado and was now living near Nazareth. I asked him why he had left the states, wondering if he had something against the establishment or our way of living. His answer was that he left because he had a strange desire and obsession to be in Israel. As we talked about America, I could see tears in his eyes as he related that he was a little homesick, but yet he would not be satisfied unless he was living in Israel. I asked him how he was making his living in Nazareth, and he said that he was farming. I inquired as to whether or not this was his trade in Colorado. His answer was no, he had never farmed before. I asked him if he was successful in his farming in Nazareth. He said, "You know, that's the strangest thing I have ever witnessed: no matter what I plant or how I plant it, it grows, and it grows to enormous size." Though this young man did not understand that his desire to go to Israel and his ability to be able to farm was a fulfillment of prophecy, yet those who are students of prophecy understand full well what is happening - the budding of the fig tree.

On November 6, 1968, the Israelis published an air mail stamp showing the export of fruit, illustrating the fulfillment of Isaiah 27:6 "He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit."



Inscription: Airmail - Export - Fruit

Designer: O. Adler

Day of Issue: November 6, 1968

Motif: Israel products exported by air

Inscription on Tabs: Export

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In 1967 they exported over \$107,000,000 worth of agricultural products - a literal fulfillment of this prophecy.

Another prophecy that is being fulfilled in Israel is in Amos 9:13 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt."

On June 24, 1951, the Israelis published a postage stamp showing the planting and the harvesting of this verse in symbolic design with the picture of a granary in the background and a tractor in the foreground. In 1971, I stood in the valley of Megiddo and listened to our Israeli guide. He related the fact that this particular valley had not only become one of the most productive valleys in the world, but that they had a serious problem of the planters getting in the way of those who were harvesting the crops.



Inscription: 50th anniversary of the Keren Kayemet Le-Israel 5711,

Designer: Wind Struski

Day of Issue: June 24, 1951

Motif: Symbolic design

Inscription on Tabs: Zion

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In order for the land to become like the Garden of Eden and produce again, there is a great demand for water.

Isaiah 41:17-18 "*When* the poor and needy seek water, and *there is none, and* their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water."

This prophecy is being fulfilled by the Israelis placing water pumps near the mouth of the Jordan River, thereby using the Sea of Galilee (rivers in high places) as a reservoir for all the cities and villages of Israel and for the irrigation of the land.

On December 26, 1950, the Israelis published a stamp with the picture of two camels drinking water out of an irrigation pipe, and quoted in Hebrew on the stamp is part of

Isaiah 43:20 "The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen."



Inscription: "Because I give water in the wilderness"

Designer: R. Rubin

Day of Issue: December 26, 1950

Motif: Landscape of the Negev with camels drinking from a waterpipe

Inscription on Tabs: The Negev

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By 1970 the Israeli nation was irrigating 428,000 acres of farm land, causing the dry land to have springs of water as prophesied in

Isaiah 41:18 "I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water."

God is planting trees in the land today as prophesied in Isaiah 41:19-20 "I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, *and* the pine, and the box tree together:

20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it."

On December 26, 1961, the Israelis published two stamps showing the development of forests in the land of Israel. Since 1948 over 116,000 acres have been planted in trees, and they have also planted trees along 550 miles of



Inscription:

Designer: Z. Narkiss & P. Kor

Day of Issue: December 26, 1961

Motif: symbolical

Inscription on Tabs: Afforestation

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roadside. In addition, they now have over 150,000 acres of natural forest and forest reserve. During each year they have a national tree-planting time when school children and others go out to plant trees. While I was visiting the land of Israel, our guide mentioned this fact of the large number of trees being planted, and I asked him why they were doing this. His reply was that he didn't know, except for the fact that they had a strange desire to do so.

The fulfillment of the prophecy of

Isaiah 35:1, "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

is illustrated on a stamp published by the Israelis on September 22, 1953. This postage stamp has the picture of a hand holding a rose in the air. Quoted in French and Hebrew on the stamp are the words "The conquest of the desert." For the first time in their history, the Israelis have commercial rose gardens and many of these are located, of all places, in the desert. Doesn't this thrill your soul to know that what God said would happen is being literally fulfilled? Many of us would have been satisfied if they were planting lilies or something else in the desert, but God said roses, and that is what is being planted. God crosses every "t" and dots every "i". Not one jot or one tittle shall in any wise pass till all be fulfilled.



Inscription: The conquest of the desert

Designer: A. Games

Day of Issue: September 22, 1953

Motif: symbolic design

Inscription on Tabs: Jerusalem 5714 - 1953

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On March 21, 1963, the Israelis published a stamp with the picture of an outstretched hand offering food to a little bird. Twelve seeds in the hand are symbolic of the twelve tribes of Israel feeding the world.

Quoted in Hebrew and French on the stamp's tab is Ezekiel 36:29 "I will also save you from all your uncleanness: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you."



Inscription: No more hunger

Designer: A. Kalderon

Day of Issue: March 21, 1963

Motif: Symbolical. An outstretched hand offering food to a little bird.

Inscription on Tabs: "And lay no famine upon you"
Ezekiel 36:29

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Today in the land of Israel, you will find the market places that were once barren and fruitless now have abundance of fruit and vegetables. In the supermarkets of the United States of America, you can purchase fruit from the land of Israel.

On April 7, 1960, the Israelis published a postage stamp with the picture of a family in a house under a vine and fig tree, with the quotation on the stamp's tab of

Micah 4:4 "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*."



Inscription:

Designer: O. Wallish

Day of Issue: April 7, 1960

Motif: Symbolical. - of the ingathering and resettlement of refugees

Inscription on Tabs: "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid" Micah 4:4

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This prophecy is literally being fulfilled in Israel. As you travel throughout the land, you see not only the settlement of families but also the vines and fig trees they have growing over their patios and homes for the first time in over 2,500 years.

So, by these few examples, you can see that the budding of the fig tree has happened. God has pointed this out even by placing these key verses on the stamps of the Israeli letters. This message is being proclaimed wherever the mail goes.

The setting for the budding of the fig tree, the development of the land of Israel, is found in a series of four postage stamps published by the Israelis on September 3, 1952. the designer of the stamps states that they are all symbolic and based on the scripture found in Song of Solomon 2:1, 13, 14; 6:11. Here is the story that is told by these four stamps.

The first stamp has a picture of a lily, and quoted in Hebrew on the stamp is part of Song of Solomon 2:1 "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys."

This stamp is symbolic of Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Rose of Sharon and Lily of the Valley, the only begotten Son of God.



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Inscription: "Joyous Festivals"
"The lily of the valleys"

Designer: O. Wallish

Day of Issue: September 3, 1952

Motif: Symbolic design. The theme of the stamp is based on the "Song Of Solomon".

Inscription on Tabs: Song of Solomon 2:1

The second stamp has the picture of a vine with nuts on it, and quoted in Hebrew on the stamp is part of

Song Of Solomon 6:11 "I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded."

This stamp is symbolic of Jesus looking upon the earth to see if the time for His return is near. The phrase "I went down" reminds us that Christ is fully aware of what is happening on the earth. The time of His coming is illustrated by the phrase "to see the fruits of the valley and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded." The question has been raised, "Is it time for Christ to come?" Do we have the budding of the fig tree of

Mark 13:28-30? "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, *even* at the doors.

30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done."



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Inscription: "Joyous Festivals"
"I went down into the garden of nuts"

Designer: O. Wallish

Day of Issue: September 3, 1952

Motif: Symbolic design. The theme of the stamp is based on the "Song Of Solomon".

Inscription on Tabs: Song of Solomon 6:11

The answer is given on the third stamp, which has the picture of a branch with figs on it. Quoted in Hebrew on the stamp is part of

Song of Solomon 2:13 "The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines *with* the tender grape give a *good* smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."



Inscription: "Joyous Festivals"
"The fig tree putteth forth her green figs"

Designer: O. Wallish

Day of Issue: September 3, 1952

Motif: Symbolic design. The theme of the stamp is based on the "Song Of Solomon".

Inscription on Tabs: Song of Solomon 2:13

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This stamp is symbolic of the budding of the fig tree, which sets the time for Jesus to come during the life span of the generation that sees the budding of the fig tree. This is brought out in the the phrase "the fig tree putteth forth her green figs", which means the fig tree is budding and it is time for the Lily of the Valley to return. What will He do when He returns? This is told in the last sentence of the verse quoted on this stamp, "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." Christ will call for His bride to arise (rapture) and to go away with Him.

The fourth stamp has the picture of a dove, and quoted in Hebrew on the stamp is part of Song of Solomon 2:14 "O my dove, *that art* in the clefts of the rock, in the secret *places* of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet *is* thy voice, and thy countenance *is* comely."



Inscription: "Joyous Festivals"
"O my dove that art in the clefts of the rock"

Designer: O. Wallish

Day of Issue: September 3, 1952

Motif: Symbolic design. The theme of the stamp is based on the "Song Of Solomon".

Inscription on Tabs: Song of Solomon 2:14

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This stamp is symbolic of the return of the Holy Spirit (dove) to Christ, to be married to Him. The Holy Spirit (dove) is dwelling in the bodies of the bride, some of whom are in the cleft of the rock (those who are alive on the earth) and some in the secret places of the stairs (those who have died in Christ). This verse also illustrates the deep love that Christ has for the bride when we read the phrase "Let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely."

Remember what Jesus said in Mark 13:28-30 "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:
29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, *even* at the doors

30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done."

We know by this scripture that we are living in the last generation before the rapture of the saints. There is not another thousand years ahead of us. Therefore, we must be busy about the work of our Lord. The generation that has seen the budding of the fig tree will not die until Christ comes in the air.

Jesus has some special instructions for those who will be living during that last generation in

Mark 13:32-37 "But of that day and *that* hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

34 *For the Son of man is* as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Let me emphasize the fact that no one can put a date on when Christ shall return, but we can know that we are in the last generation and even in the last days. Therefore, are you watching? "To watch" doesn't mean to go out and stand on the hill and look for Christ to come. As in verse 34, "to watch" means to perform the work that Christ has commanded us to do before He comes. If you are not doing this, then Jesus says in verse 36 "you are sleeping."

Are you really ready for Christ to come? Are you saved? Have you done what God wants you to do as outlined in Romans 10:8-10? "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Why not pray out loud and ask God to forgive you and save you by the blood of Jesus Christ? Child of God, are you ready for Christ to come? Are you keeping His commandments? Are you telling others of Jesus? The budding of the fig tree has happened. We are in the last generation. We do not have much time left. Read again the words of Jesus in Mark 13:36-37 "Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."