

Chapter 20 The fig is budding!

Tenants don't normally return to their location after a 2000 year absence. But it was prophesied twenty-six centuries ago that Israel would do so, returning to her land "from the four corners of the earth." Isaiah 11.11-12. It happened in 1948.

And there's more! Israel is God's fig tree (Joel 1.7), and Jesus told a parable about this. He described Israel's end-time revival as the fig tree putting forth its leaves - springing into new life. Matthew 24.32.

He further explained that when this happens, *all the trees* will be budding. Luke 21.29-31.

Surely only God could know this would be a time of the greatest growth of nationalism in all of world history.

* In Africa alone, 53 independent and sovereign countries have emerged¹, even though Africa accounts for only about 14% of the world's population.²

* In 1991 the Soviet Union suddenly collapsed, with unexpected development of independent states.

* Around the world, other groups clamour for independence. *All the trees are budding!*

Why is this important? Because when such unlikely events come true before our eyes, God makes it easy for us to trust all his other promises, including his great promise that, through Christ, he is able to save us from our sins.

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One of life's marvels - even after a 2000-year global dispersion, the Jews remain a distinct race!

¹ www.exploringabroad.com/regions/africa.htm

² around 13.75 per cent in 2005 (Wikipedia)