

~ **OPERATION FIG TREE - FIRE AND FURY** ~

GOD'S RED LINE IN THE SAND

Matthew 21:18-22

INTRODUCTION: This morning we will be looking at one of Jesus' two destructive miracles - the cursing and destruction of the fig tree. In the OT fig trees were symbolic of Israel's prosperity (Deut. 8:8; Hab. 3:17), pleasure (Judges 9:11), and security (1 Kings 4:25). We even see that the Bible uses the fruit of the fig-tree as a symbol of Israel (Hosea 9:8). The other side of the fig-tree symbolism of Israel is that the wrath and judgment of God upon Israel is a picture of a day when He would smite and destroy the fig-trees (Jeremiah 8:13). In the event of Jesus cursing the fig-tree and its destruction we will see two powerful truths - the first to give serious warning to the hypocritical religious leaders of Israel of God's coming judgment upon the nation; and the second to His disciples to give special encouragement of the power of faith and prayer for those in God's service - truths I trust will be of benefit to us here this morning.

A. THE _____ ENACTED

1. THE _____ OF OUR LORD

2. THE _____ OF OUR LORD

3. THE _____ OF OUR LORD

B. THE _____ ENVISIONED

1. BY THE _____ TO THE NATION

2. BY THE _____ TO THE DISCIPLES

A. THE DISCIPLES' _____ AND AMAZEMENT

B. THE LORD'S _____ AND ENCOURAGEMENT

C. THE _____ IMPLIED