Lessons From Nature And History

Matthew 24:32-42

Intro:

A. Jesus answered His disciples' questions.
   1. "When shall these things be?"
   2. "What shall be the sign of thy coming?"

B. His answers were direct, to the point.
   1. The first, vs.4-28
   2. The second, vs.29-31

I. A Lesson From Nature.

   A. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree"
      1. Tender branches and leafing. V.32
      2. "Ye know that summer is nigh"

   B. The application.
      1. This applies to question #1 and #2 V.33
      2. "...when ye shall see all these things..."
      3. "...it is near even at the doors..."
      4. When these disciples saw verse 15 being fulfilled they knew that Jerusalem would be destroyed.
      5. When disciples in the future saw the signs listed in verse 29 they are to know the kingdom is near. Luke 21:28 - "Your redemption draweth near." "...the kingdom of God is nigh at hand."
      6. The destruction of Jerusalem, "these things" during the lifetime of those listening to Him. V.34
      7. Everything Jesus has said in answering these questions will come to pass. V.35

II. A Lesson From History.

   A. Jesus taught them about the last question, "the sign of thy coming."
      1. No man, no angel, knows the day or the hour. God's people may know the season.
      2. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8

   B. A lesson from the days of Noah.
1. The formal comparison. V.37
2. Things were "normal". V.38
3. Those other than Noah’s family were unbelieving of Noah’s message. V.39

C. The taking away.
1. Two shall be in the field. V.40
2. Two shall be grinding at the mill. V.41
3. Paul’s writing on this subject. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
4. Again the catching away.
5. Paul informs the Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52