

This Generation....Historic and/or Prophetic Luke 21, Matthew 24, Mark 13

Luke 21:25–36 (NKJV)

²⁵ “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

²⁹ Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

³⁴ “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Introduction.

Notice verse 35

³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth

We move from a localized destruction of temple in Jerusalem in 70AD.

Luke 21:20–24 (NKJV)

²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are

written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations.

35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth

Acts 17:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

This judgment involves everyone: *all who live on the face of the whole earth*. No one will escape this evaluation

Biblical Studies Press. (2005). [The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible](#). Biblical Studies Press.

There is a clear telescoping of events here. Local to universal. Historical to prophetic. minimal to

maximum. A long line of mountain ranges culminating the mountain made without hands, bringing the kingdom of God.

The prophetic statements of Jesus in Matt 24 Luke 21 and Mark 13 are more than historical realities fulfilled, but a look into the future to the end of the age. The evil age in which we live will come to an end, when Jesus returns.

The oversimplification of these texts has led some to believe that most, if not all of thees passages and most if not all of Revelation and even some of the Pauline statements have already been finally and completely fulfilled

It seems to me that most of the confusion lies in a misunderstanding of the time text of the Bible

It is near

It is at hand

It is at the door.

I am coming soon

I am coming quickly

and the most quoted one "THIS Generation."
Matthew 24:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Regarding this word, scholarship and commentaries and Bible teachers propose basically 4 possible views of this phrase.... “this generation”

Views on “this Generation”

1. Refers to the people living at that time, including the second coming of 70AD
2. Refers to the people living at that time seeing “all these things”, but not the second coming.
3. Refers to the People living at the time of the Coming of Christ.
4. Refers to the character of the people living at that time

Views on “this Generation”

1. Refers to the people living at that time, including the second coming of 70AD

This assumes that the greek word primarily in this context means “A time period of a people living”. usually 30-40 years. That the same people who were alive when Jesus gave these words would be alive and experience the coming of Jesus in 70AD.

This is the simplest view, and I believe an oversimplification of the passage. Because it ignores there 3 questions given by the disciples and deny’s the obvious language of the text that points to a literal visible parousia of Christ to send his Angels and gather His elect.

2. Refers to the people living at that time seeing “all these things”, but not the second coming.

This is the view that John Piper takes and some other scholars take.

This view take a narrow view and a very definite view of the words

“all these things”.

πάντα ταῦτα

Matthew 24:33–34 (NKJV)

³³ So you also, when you see **all these things**, know that **it is near**—at the doors! ³⁴ Assuredly, I say to

you, this generation will by no means pass away till **all these things** take place.

So **all these things** will take place before this generation passes away, but this does not include the coming of Christ, **all these things** will happen and then we will know that it is NEAR. NOT necessarily HERE.

What are **all these things**?

Matthew 24:4–8 (NKJV)

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ **All these** are the beginning of sorrows.

Matthew 24:7–8 (NA28)

8 ὅ πάντα δὲ ταῦτα² ἀρχὴ ὠδίνων.*

Luke adds, that before all these things. (literally—the entirety of those things)

Luke 21:12–17 (NKJV)

¹² But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. ¹³ But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.

¹⁴ Therefore settle *it* in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put *some* of you to death. ¹⁷ And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.

These things would include then the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.

Luke 21:20–24 (NKJV)

²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are

written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

3. Refers to the People living at the time of the coming of Christ.

John MacArthur take this view. That “this generation” alive at the time of all of these events happening will not pass away until all of it is fulfilled. In other words, the people alive at the beginning of these things and the final escalation of these things will still be alive to see the final culmination of Coming of Christ.

4. Refers to the character of the people living at that time

The greek word “generation” does not primarily means a time span.

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In [*A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature*](#) (3rd ed., p. 191). University of Chicago Press.

γενεά, ἄς, ἡ (Hom.+; ins, pap, LXX, En; TestSol C 13:7; TestJob, Test12Patr; GrBar 10:3; Philo, Joseph., SibOr, Just., Tat.) a term relating to the product of the act of generating and with special ref. to kinship, frequently used of familial connections and ancestry

① **those exhibiting common characteristics or interests, *race, kind***

Thomas, R. L. (1998). In [*New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition.*](#)

Foundation Publications, Inc.

1074. γενεά genea; from 1096; race, family, generation:—generation(32), generations(10), kind(1).

Silva, M., ed. (2014). In [*New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology and Exegesis*](#) (Second Edition, Vol. 1, p. 555). Zondervan.

γενεά G1155 (*genea*), race, clan, generation, age;
γένος G1169 (*genos*), descendant, family, race, nation;
γενεαλογία G1157 (*genealogia*), genealogy, family tree;

Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., & McKenzie, R. (1996). In [*A Greek-English lexicon*](#) (p. 342). Clarendon Press.

γενεά,. of the persons in a family,
1. *race, family,*

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 111). United Bible Societies.

γενεά^b, **ἄς f**: an ethnic group exhibiting cultural similarities—‘people of the same kind.’

Silva, M., ed. (2014). In [New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology and Exegesis](#) (Second Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 555–556). Zondervan.

Both γενεά and γένος (derived from γίνομαι G1181, “to be born, become,” etc.) are used as early as Homer with ref. to a group of people who have a common ancestry, whether in the sense of “family” (*Od.* 16.117) or with such broader meanings as “clan, lineage, race” (*Il.* 15.141 et al.). The terms later take on extended uses; e.g., γενεά can mean “birth(place)” and γένος is often used in the sense “class, kind, genus.”

Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In [Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume](#) (p. 114). W.B. Eerdmans.

geneá. This means a. “birth,” “descent,” b. “progeny,” c. “race,” and d. “generation.” In the NT it is common in the Synoptics, rare in Paul, and absent from John. It mostly means “generation” and is often qualified: “adulterous” (Mk. 8:38), “evil” (Mt. 12:45), “unbelieving and corrupt” (Mt. 17:17); the formula “this generation” is very common (Mk. 8:12 etc.). “Crooked generation” in Acts

2:40; Phil. 2:15 is based on Dt. 32:5 (cf. Mt. 17:17 and Dt. 32:20). The use of “generation” by Jesus expresses his comprehensive purpose: he aims at the whole people and is conscious of their solidarity in sin. *geneá* has the sense of “age” in Mt. 1:17; Acts 13:36; Eph. 3:5; Col. 1:26

γενεά.

In general usage, this means a. “birth,” “descent”: Αἰτωγὸς γενεήν, Hom. Il., 23, 471: ἀπὸ γενεᾶς, “from birth,” Xenoph. Cyrop., I, 2, 8; b. “what is born,” “progeny,” “descendant”: χρήματα καὶ γενεὰν ὑποδιδόναι == “to deliver up possessions and children,” Polyb., XX, 6, 6; c. “race” in the sense of those bound by common descent:

In the role played by γενεά in the sayings of Jesus we can see His comprehensive purpose— He is aiming at the whole people and not at individuals

In NT Gr. *geneá* literally means space of time, circle of time, which only in a derived sense signifies the

meaning of a time, a race; then generally in the sense of affinity of communion based upon the sameness of stock. Race or posterity (Acts 8:33, “who shall declare his posterity?” [a.t.] i.e., the number of His followers as spoken of the Messiah and quoted from Is. 53:8; Sept.: Gen. 17:12; Num. 13:22; Esth. 9:28). A descent or genealogical line of ancestors or descendants. Generation (Matt. 1:17; Sept.: Gen. 15:16; 25:13; Deut. 23:3) as used in special reference to the physical or moral circumstances of a particular period, just as we speak of an age or time referring to the spiritual state of its society (Heb. 3:10 [cf. Luke 7:31; 11:31; Acts 13:36]). The connection alone must decide whether the sense is limited to the state of society at a certain time or whether the word refers simply to race or stock.

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [*The complete word study dictionary: New Testament*](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

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The word *geneá* in Matt. 24:34 may have had reference to the kind of Jew with whom Jesus was conversing during that particular time (Matt. 21:23; 23:29). He was telling them that this generation or

type, such as the Sadducees and Pharisees of that day, would not pass away until all these things occurred and until His coming again in His *parousía* (3952), Second Coming, which has proven to be true

The way the word generation is used of the contemporaries of Jesus

1. O Faithless Generation Mk 9:19
2. O Faithless and Perverse Generation Matt 17:17
Luke 9:41
3. This Wicked Generation Matt 12 45
4. An evil and adulterous generation Matt 12 39; 16 4
5. an evil generation Luke 11 29
6. this adulterous and sinful generation Mk 8 38

7. This perverse generation Acts 2 40
8. a crooked and perverse generation Phil 2 15

Acts 2:40 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

Philippians 2:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Deuteronomy 32:5 (NKJV)

⁵ “They have corrupted themselves;
They are not His children,
Because of their blemish:
A perverse and crooked generation

It is clear from the words of Jesus, that whenever he uses the term generation, he can refer to a group of people, a character of people who are living within a certain time frame. And that the term generation is not necessarily include every single person living at that time or that it just refers to a particular timeframe of 30 to 40 years, but rather to a particular character of people living at any given time.

Notice

Matthew 23:29–39 (NKJV)

²⁹ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰ and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’

³¹ “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ *guilt*. ³³ Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? ³⁴ Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵ that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom **you murdered between the temple and the altar.** ³⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon **this generation.**

³⁷ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How

often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing!³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate;³⁹ for I say to you, **you (this kind of generation) shall see Me no more** till you say, '*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*' ”

In the Song of Moses, Moses clearly identifies this generation as a kind of people that span time.

Deuteronomy 32:5 (NKJV)

⁵ “They have corrupted themselves;
They are not His children,
Because of their blemish:
A perverse and crooked generation.

Deuteronomy 32:16–21 (NKJV)

¹⁶ They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign *gods*;
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.

¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, not to God,
To gods they did not know,
To new *gods*, new arrivals
That your fathers did not fear.

¹⁸ Of the Rock *who* begot you, you are unmindful,
And have forgotten the God who fathered you.

¹⁹ “And when the Lord saw *it*, He spurned *them*,

Because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters.

²⁰ And He said: 'I will hide My face from them,
I will see what their end *will be*,
For they *are* a perverse generation,
Children in whom *is* no faith.

²¹ They have provoked Me to jealousy by *what* is not
God;

They have moved Me to anger by their foolish
idols.

But I will provoke them to jealousy by *those who*
are not a nation;

I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

Deuteronomy 31:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ "Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you; ²⁷ for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. *If* today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord, then how much more after my death?

Deuteronomy 31:29 (NKJV)

29 For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands.”

We see the use of “This Generation” as a characterization of a group of people and that the the righteous are not part of the “This Generation”

Of the wicked God says

Psalm 12:2–8 (NKJV)

- 2 They speak idly everyone with his neighbor;
With flattering lips *and* a double heart they speak.
- 3 May the Lord cut off all flattering lips,
And the tongue that speaks proud things,
- 4 Who have said,
“With our tongue we will prevail;
Our lips *are* our own;
Who *is* lord over us?”....
- 6 The words of the Lord *are* pure words,
Like silver tried in a furnace of earth,
Purified seven times.

- 7 You shall keep them, O Lord,
You shall preserve them from this generation
forever. (not everyone of a certain time period.
The the evil men
- 8 The wicked prowl on every side,
When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.

Psalm 24:3–6 (NKJV)

- 3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
Or who may stand in His holy place?
- 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,
Nor sworn deceitfully.
- 5 He shall receive blessing from the Lord,
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- 6 This *is* Jacob, the generation of those who seek
Him,
Who seek Your face.

Selah

Additional thought

Matthew 24:34–35 (NKJV)

³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will **by no means pass away** till all these things take place.

³⁵ Heaven and earth **will pass away**, but My words will **by no means pass away**.

Three times in 2 verses, Jesus uses the term pass away

1. IN reference to “this generation”

2. IN referencer to the Heaven and Earth

3. IN reference to His Word.

③ **to come to an end and so no longer be there, *pass away, disappear***

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In [A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature](#) (3rd ed., p. 776). University of Chicago Press.

Matthew 5:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth **pass away**, one jot or one tittle will **by no means pass** from the law till all is fulfilled.

Luke 16:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ **And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have **passed away**; behold, all things have become new.

James 1:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field **he will pass away**.

2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens **will pass away** with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Revelation 21:1 (NKJV)

21 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had **passed away**. Also there was no more sea.

③ **to come to an end and so no longer be there,
*pass away, disappear***

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In [*A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature*](#) (3rd ed., p. 776). University of Chicago Press.

Come to a final and complete end.

If we translate with that understanding it may help. but even with this we may just conclude that “this generation” of Jesus day will not come to end before all of Matt 24 takes place.

But if we see how Jesus likes to use this word in context of the longevity of things.

The Heaven and Earth , although it has been here 6000 years will one day come to an end.

Or My Word that has been here for a very long time will never come to an end.

So this Generation that has been here a very long time Since the rebellion in Moses day will not come to an end until all these things take place. This kind of people, evil, adulterous generation of people will not come to and end until all these things take place.