

## Are We the Final Generation?

ETS: Jesus said the generation that sees the things he described will be the final one

ESS: The evidence is pointing to the possibility we are the final generation

OSS: I want people to think about the implications of being in the final generation

PQ: Are you ready for the return of Christ?

UW: Generation

### ME

Last sermon on the End Times for a while

### WE

### GOD

#### Background:

- Jesus tells His disciples that the temple will be destroyed (**Vss. 5-6**)
- Jesus' disciples asked Him "**WHEN**" (**v. 7**)
- Jesus warned against deception because of false proclamations, wars, etc. (**vss. 8-9**)

- “these things must take place first, but the end won’t come right away.”

THEN Jesus describes the “**END**”

- (When I say “**the End**,” I am NOT TALKING about the END of the WORLD, but **the end of this age**. The **next age** to follow is the **Millennial Reign of Christ!**)
- Events leading to the End of this Age...
  - “Nation will be raised up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
  - Violent earthquakes, and famines and plagues in various places, and there will be terrifying sights and great signs from heaven.

Then Jesus **pauses** and goes **back to their time...**

- **Vss. 12-19: Persecution** of Jesus’ **disciples** and you could argue disciples in general.

Then Jesus predicts the **Destruction of Jerusalem** in **A.D. 70**

- **Vss. 20-24**
  - This **near-time prophetic event** also serves as a **TEMPLATE** for the **ultimate war** against Jerusalem.
    - In other words, this will be **REPLAYED** in the future

THEN Jesus tells of **HIS RETURN** in **vss. 25-28**

- Preceded by “**Signs in the Heavens**”
- Jesus will return on a cloud with **power and great glory** (Pillar of Fire)
- Jesus says **believers will be on the earth** when He returns
  - **V. 28** “**But when these things begin to take place, stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is near.**”

Then Jesus tells a parable....

- A **Parable** is “**An earthly story with a heavenly meaning**”

**Luke 21:29-30** “**Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 As soon as they put out leaves you can see for yourselves and recognize that summer is already near.”**

- This is a simple, **real-life illustration!**
  - **We’ve been experiencing this!**
    - **Trees have been putting on leaves and the temperature is increasing so we all KNOW summer is already near!**

Now, Jesus takes us back to the TIMING of His second coming: **31** *In the same way, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.*”

- What is the Kingdom of God?
  - The **Kingdom of God** is simply the kingdom where God reigns!

Jesus has been preaching “**The good news of the Kingdom of God**” (Lk. 4:43, et. al)

- Jesus has been preaching the good-news message of **repentance, redemption, and restoration** offered by God through Him, the Son of Man.
  - Those who obey God’s voice and accept this offer become part of His eternal kingdom.

There are two aspects of life on this planet

- **Physical** (Material)
- **Spiritual** (Immaterial)

Those who **humble** themselves by responding to the Good News of Jesus are **spiritually** *IN the Kingdom of God!*

- Why? Because they have *submitted* themselves to Christ for Him to **rule and reign** in their hearts!

WHEN Jesus said, “*In the same way, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.*”

- He is talking about the **PHYSICAL** aspect of the Kingdom of God!
  - The **Physical Kingdom of God** arrives when Jesus **rules and reigns** on the earth from **Jerusalem!**

What are “these things” that Jesus says indicate the physical Kingdom of God is near?

- Jesus has just given **PHYSICAL Manifestations** that **indicate** the **Kingdom of Heaven is near!**

**Luke 21:32-33** “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

I’m going to give them to you and then we will unpack them to answer our question:

**Are we the Final Generation:**

WHAT is a generation?

- Normally, it refers to a group of people born and living at about the same time, regarded collectively.
  - Usually, a “**Generation**” spans about 30-40 years

In America, we have terms for recent generations:

- **Lost Generation:** 1883 to 1900
- **The Greatest Generation:** 1901 to 1927
- **The Silent Generation:** 1928 to 1945.
- **Baby boomers:** 1946 to 1964.
- **Generation X:** 1965 and 1980
- **Millennials:** 1981 to 1996
- **Generation Z:** 1997 to 2012.
- **Generation Alpha:** Early 2010s as starting birth years and the mid-2020s
  - Generation Alpha is the first to be born entirely in the 21st century
    - Gen Alpha is expected to reach nearly two billion in size by 2025.[57]

It has been argued that a GENERATION in the Bible is roughly 40 years, yet in Genesis 15, God defines a “generation” as 100 years.

- **Gen. 15:13-16** “Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know this for certain: Your offspring (the Jews) will be resident aliens for **four hundred years in a land** that does not belong to them and will be enslaved and oppressed. 14 However, I will judge the nation they serve, and afterward they will go out with many possessions. 15 But you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 **In the**

**fourth generation** they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

Remember, past events often serve as a picture of future events.

- The greatest deliverance event in Jewish history is the Exodus
  - The Second Coming of Christ is a replay of the Exodus, but on a global scale!

**Moses** was **from Egypt and returned to Egypt** to deliver his people

- Christ lived on the earth and will return to the earth to deliver his people

**Moses** stood up against the **most powerful man in the world** at that time

- Christ will stand up against the most powerful man in the world when He returns

**Satan** fought against Moses through **magicians who duplicated** many of the **signs** Moses used

- Christ will fight against the False Prophet and others who use signs and wonders to deceive.

**Moses led his people out of Egypt**

- Christ will lead His people out of this world

**Moses** led his people to the **Promised Land**

- Christ will reestablish the Promised Land on the earth

We could go on and on with the **parallels**

In this context of bondage and deliverance, God defines a **generation of roughly 100 years.**

**Luke 21:32** “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all things take place.”

- Jesus is **emphatic**: “Truly, I tell you....”
  - If a “**Generation**” for the deliverance of God’s people from **Egypt**, which is a **picture** of the Second Coming, is about 100 years,
    - **SINCE** Jesus is teaching about His second coming,
      - **THEN**, it seems logical to conclude that when “**These things begin to take place**” there is about a 100-year timeframe.

What are “**all things**” that need to take place?

**Luke 21:9** “When you hear of wars and rebellions, don’t be alarmed. Indeed, it is **NECESSARY** that these things take place first, *but the end won’t come right away...*”



There have always been “Wars and rebellions” but Jesus’ phrase: “*but the end won’t come right away*” is intriguing.

- Jesus could have said: “When you hear of wars and rebellions, don’t be alarmed” and moved on, but He adds “indeed, it is necessary that these things take place first, *but the end won’t come right away...*”
- Also, Jesus goes on in v. 10 to say “Nation will be raised up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,” which seems to be a REPEAT of verse 9.

There have always been “Wars and rebellions” but Jesus’ phrase: “*but the end won’t come right away*” is intriguing.

The word “NECESSARY”

- There appear to be “wars and rebellions” that will be so great that people will think Jesus is coming back, which is why Jesus adds, “*But the end is not yet.*”

Here are SIGNS I believe that indicates we are in the Final Generation

**Final Generation Signs: World Wars**

The **20<sup>th</sup> Century** saw a type of war that had never happened in human history: **World Wars**

- For the first time, we had many large nations in all different parts of the world battling each other.
  - Due to advances made during the Industrial Revolution, we could transport troops long distances in short time period through the recent invention of airplanes, motorized battleships, and motor cars.
  - We could also fight from a distance on the battlefield with weapons like machine guns, tanks, and chemical warfare.

Remember: **Bible Prophecy centers on the Middle East.**

- Despite these unique wars in which millions of people were killed, did they set the stage for the return of Christ?

Here is a brief **Timeline:**

- 1896 Theodor Herzl wrote a book, *The Jewish State*, in 1896, arguing for a Jewish state as a solution to antisemitism.
  - This became the basis for the Zionist movement.
- 1882-1903: Approximately 35,000 Jews immigrated into Palestine, primarily from Russia fleeing pogroms.

- 1904-1914: 35,000-40,000 Jews arrived, mostly from Russia.
- 1914: World War 1 Begins
- 1917: The Ottoman Empire collapses
  - This empire brought Islam to the whole area.
    - At its peak in the 1500s, the Ottoman Empire controlled parts of Southeast Europe, West Asia, and North Africa.
- November 1917, the British government issues The Balfour Declaration
  - The declaration expressed British support for the "establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."
- Dec. 11, 1917 the **League of Nations**, handed control of Jerusalem and the surrounding area over to the British government "**The British Mandate**"

World War 1 opened the door for the establishment of a Jewish state!

- The Ottoman Empire, which would have never allowed the Jews to form their own state, collapsed
- The British arose in favor of a Jewish state
- The British were given control of the area, which encouraged the Jews to continue to immigrate into their Biblical homeland!

The flood of Jewish immigrants continued:

- 1919-1923 Roughly 35,000 Jews immigrated into Palestine, mainly from the Soviet Union, Poland, and the Baltic states.
- 1924-1931: Around 82,000 Jews arriving from the Balkans and the Near East.

Then the Nazi's rose to power in Germany!

- 1932-1948: Over 250,000 Jews fled to Palestine

1939-1945: World War 2

- Hitler kills 6 million Jews trying to exterminate them
  - 70+million people die in the greatest conflict in human history

For the first time, you had 2 World Wars, *but the end won't come right away"*

- World War 1 set the stage for the creation of Israel
- World War 2 resulted in the creation of Israel

These "wars" were "necessary" for the rebirth of Israel!

- Necessary to **REGATHER** Israel
- Necessary to provide a **REASON** for Israel to be reestablished

**Final Generation Sign: Israel Reborn**

**Luke 21:29-31** “Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 As soon as they put out leaves you can see for yourselves and recognize that summer is already near. **31** *In the same way, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.”*

Why did Jesus single out the **fig tree**?

The Fig Tree was used in Scripture to refer to **Israel** (Hos. 9:10, Habakuk 3:17. Joel 1:6-7.

- John the Baptizer stated in Matt. 3:10, and in Luke 3:9 that the axe was already laid to the **root of the tree**, *presumably a fig tree*, implying that Jerusalem and Judea were ready to be cut down.

Remember: For the Return of Christ, Israel needed to be reestablished in its land!

- WHY? Because the Old Testament is FULL of **Bible Prophecies** that describe the **Jews** living in **Jerusalem** when Jesus returns and the nation of Israel being in existence.

The “fig tree” began to **sprout leaves** in 1948

- Notice Jesus did NOT SAY “When you see the fig tree **produce fruit**”

## WHY?

**Luke 21:9** “When you hear of wars and **rebellions**, don’t be alarmed. Indeed, it is **NECESSARY** that these things take place first, *but the end won’t come right away...*”

Here are SIGNS I believe that indicates we are in the Final  
Generation  
**Rebellion**

Following WW2, the **1960s** were an era marked by **rebellion**

**History Channel** “The 1960s was one of the most tumultuous and divisive decades in world history. The era was marked by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and antiwar protests, countercultural movements, political assassinations and the emerging “generation gap.”

**Britannica** “1960s counterculture, a broad-ranging social movement in the United States, Canada, and western Europe that rejected conventional mores and traditional

authorities and whose members variously advocated peace, love, social justice, and revolution. The 1960s counterculture movement, which generally extended into the early 1970s, was an alternative approach to life that manifested itself in a variety of activities, lifestyles, and artistic expressions, including recreational drug use, communal living, political protests, casual sex, and folk and rock music.

There was some good that came out of this era (i.e., *Civil Rights Movement*), but the **seeds** of that decade **continue to produce fruit**.

- Today, churches and denominations are rejecting the teachings of Scripture
- The family unit has been decimated
- Drugs run rampant
- Our moral footing has been lost

This REBELLION is not just in the United States, but Global, particularly in the West.

- The **moral fabric, military and economic strength** of Western Countries is quickly deteriorating.

*Remember: Bible Prophecy centers on the Middle East, particularly Israel*

Although **Israel** is back in its biblical homeland, it is a **country in rebellion** against God!

- Israel is surrounded by **Islamic countries** that do not permit rebellion.

This week Ebrahim Raisi, the “Butcher of Iran” was killed in a helicopter crash

- He was so-called the “butcher” because in 1988 he oversaw the execution of up to 8,000 political prisoners from the Iran-Iraq war.
- In 2022, Iran had its largest protests since 1979
  - Raisi responded by having over 500 protestors killed in imprisoning 22,000 others.

Israel is a democracy influenced by the WESTERN mindset, therefore it has adopted the same secular mindset of the west.

- In the **Ezekiel 37** prophecy, Israel is a nation of “**dry bones**” that have come together, but has no “**life**” in it.
  - While the Jews still retain their **Jewish traditions and language**, the **majority** are **secular**.
    - Of those who are religions, the majority reject Jesus Christ as their Messiah.
      - Only a fraction of people in Israel are believing Jews (Messianic Jews).



Make no mistake, God has **regathered Israel** for **Judgement**.

- Israel has been regathers in unbelief (**Ezek. 37:8**), = bones reassembled by without the spirit/life
  - REMEMBER, Israel is NOT PRODUCING FRUIT, because is it a secular nation.

RECAP:

- We have had 2 World Wars, which were NECESSARY for the regathering of Israel, “**but the end is not yet.**”
- We have rebellions, which were NECESSARY “**but the end is not yet.**”

*Remember, Bible Prophecy centers on Israel*

## **WHY are We the Final Generation?** **The Other Trees**

**Luke 21:29-31** “Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 As soon as they put out leaves you can see for yourselves and recognize that summer is already near. **31** *In the same way, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.”*

I wondered why Jesus said “**Look at the fig tree, and all the trees....**”

- Why didn't Jesus say “**Look at the fig tree**” and **not mention “All the trees”**?

Why did Jesus say “**and all trees**”?

Remember **WW1** resulted in the **collapse** of the **Ottoman Empire**

- The **British** were given control of **Palestine**, which ultimately led to the creation of Israel

**Timeline:**

WHAT about the rest of the areas that were under Ottoman Control?

- 1919-1922 was the Turkish War of Independence, which led to the creation of Turkey
  - WHY is this important?
    - Turkey is the only surviving successor state that retained a significant portion of the **Ottoman heartland**.
      - The Bible seems to indicate that the Anti-Christ will arise from **Turkey or that region**.

After WW1,

- Turkey (Oct. 1923)
- Iraq (Oct. 1932)
- Syria (Nov. 1946)
- Lebanon (Nov. 1943)
- Jordan (1946)
- Saudi Arabia (1932)
- Egypt (1922)

MAP of Countries

Map of Islamic

These states encompass the locations of the enemies of Israel throughout the Old Testament

- Edom
- Moab
- Ammon
- Persia
- Assyria
- Tyre

Map of Israel

Interestingly, **The Gaza Strip (Area where the Philistines lived)**

- Egypt originally controlled the Gaza Strip after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Israel's war for independence.

- In 1967 Israel regained control of the Gaza Strip in the 6 day war
- The Oslo Peace Accords negotiated for Israel to withdraw from the Gaza Strip
- 2005 Israel gives the Palestinians control over the Gaza Strip
- 2006, the Palestinians elect Hamas
  - Since then the Gaza Strip has been the site of numerous rocket launches into Israel
  - In October 2023, Hamas militants launched a coordinated assault on Israel, kidnapping and killing more than 1,000 Israelis, many of them civilians, leading Prime Minister Netanyahu to declare “we are at war.”

The **Gazan War** is heightening **antisemitism worldwide!**

What you are watching on TV, and social Media, etc. is a fulfillment of prophecy!

- **Zech 12:3** “On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who try to lift it will injure themselves severely when all the nations of the earth gather against her.”
- **Pic of Tweet** on Twitter “Delete one nation”

We are watching Israel/Jerusalem become a “**heavy stone for the people’s of the world.**”

What happens to the “**GENERATION**” that “**sees these things?**”

- **Luke 21:32** “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all things take place.”

If a **Generation** is about 100 years, as defined by God in Genesis 15.

If the starting point is the rebirth of Israel in 1948 (The fig tree)

THEN, it seems we are in **the final decades**

World events are changing rapidly regarding Israel

It is interesting how EMPHATIC Jesus is!

- **V. 32:** “Truly I tell you”
- **V. 33:** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

Why is Jesus so emphatic about the “**Generation that sees these things?**”?

- Maybe because He knew it would be **2,000 years** that **Israel would not exist**

- And **theologians** would create **theological systems** to **replace Israel** with the **church**
- Or, no one could **fathom** how an **ancient nation** could **return**
- Or, no one could **fathom** how a **small nation** could become a **“burden for the entire world!”**

Until recently, this prophecy did not seem like it could be fulfilled literally, but here we are!

## YOU

In **Luke 18**, Jesus tells a parable and applies it to **His Second Coming**.

- Jesus asks this question: **“when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”** (**Luke 18:8**)
  - WHY would He ask that question?
    - Because THE APOSTACY is coming
    - The Great Deception is coming

With that in mind, Jesus makes this plea: **Luke 2:34-36**

**““Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly 35 like a trap. For it will come on all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 But be alert at all times, praying that you may have**

strength to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

PQ: Are you ready for the return of Christ?