

SERMON NOTES March 15, 2009

“THE LAST GENERATION” Luke 21:29-33

Review: Jesus' Second Advent will be: Physical, literal, bodily.

Jesus' words about the signs before His second coming are consistent with the Old Testament and Revelation.

Is. 13:6, 8; 24:18-19 Joel 2:1, 10, 30; 3:15 Ezekiel 38:19
Haggai 2:6-7 Zephaniah 1:14-15 Re. 6:12 Re. 8:5-6
Re. 16:8, 17

TODAY:

Leaves mean it's spring. The fig tree was often used as an illustration. (e.g. Judges 9,11; Hosea 9:10; Je. 24:2; Joel 1:6-7)

WHAT GENERATION?

Option #1 – “this generation” refers to the disciples .

Gk. Genea = generation; people; nation; stock

Option #2 – “this generation” refers to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

- Where are “nations rising against nations”? (Rome came against Jerusalem)
- What about escalating deception, destruction, and persecution?
- Where are the terrors in the sky?

Option #3 – “this generation” means bad people.

Gk. Genea – can refer to an evil generation or a righteous generation.

Option #4 – “this generation” refers to the people who see the birth of the nation Israel .

ASSUMPTIONS: Israel is the fig tree. If you see the tree bud, you are seeing Israel become a nation.

FACT: Israel became a nation in 1948.

PROBLEM: If a generation is 40 years, then 1988 was the end of “this generation”.

- Matthew & Mark speak of a “fig tree”.
- Luke however says “fig tree and all trees .”

QUESTION: How can this refer to Israel exclusively?

Luke makes it clear this passage is an analogy not an allegory .

Analogy defined – 1. A similarity between like features of two things, on which a comparison may be based: *the analogy between the heart and a pump*. 2. Similarity or comparability: *I see no analogy between your problem and mine*.

Allegory defined – A representation of an abstract or spiritual meaning through concrete or material forms; figurative treatment of one subject under the guise of another.

THE TRIBULATION

FIRST: If the tribulation begins in Revelation 6 – the Church is gone!

In Revelation 1-3 the Church is mentioned 19 times. After chapter 3, the Church is mentioned zero times.

Before the tribulation begins in chapter 6 – John takes the reader to heaven (chapters 4&5).

In heaven we find 24 elders .

The 24 elders seem to be best understood as the glorified Church.

In Revelation 19, Christ comes back at the end of that time – the tribulation .

He comes with the Saints .

SECOND: No warnings – no instructions.

THIRD: In 1 Corinthians 15, 1 Thessalonians 4, and John 14 – the Church is taken into heaven. There is no judgment .

FOURTH: If Christ come at the end of the tribulation --

CONCLUSION: At the Rapture the church meets Christ in the air.

At the Second Coming (Advent), the Church returns with Christ to the earth .

The Rapture is a signless event.