

# The Terminal Generation

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# Introduction

- Survey of the meaning and use of the the term **this generation.**
- Examples in the O.T. & N.T.
- What specific generation is referred to in the N.T.?
- How the Bible has used generation to define and limit the fulfillment of prophecy
- Some interpretations and objections given by others

# Definition

gen·er·a·tion jenə'rāSH(ə)n/

*noun*

1. all of the people born and living at about the same time, regarded collectively. "one of his generation's finest songwriters"
2. *synonyms:*
3. **age, age group, peer group** "people of the same generation"
4. the production of something. "methods of electricity generation"

[Generation | Define Generation at Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/generation)

[www.dictionary.com/browse/generation](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/generation)

the entire body of individuals born and living at about the same time: the postwar **generation**. the term of years, roughly 30 among human beings, accepted as the average period between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring.

[Generation | Definition of Generation by Merriam-Webster](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/generation)

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Jul 2, 2018 - **Definition** of **generation** for English Language Learners. : a group of people born and living during the same time. : the people in a family born and living during the same time. : the average length of time between the birth of parents and the birth of their children.

# Production of Something

- This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were **created**, in the day that the LORD God **made** the earth and the heavens. (Gen. 2:4)
- Generations (Toledoth, pl. Hebrew)
- Second use of our definition: The production of something, in this case creation of the world and all things in it, i.e. the “generations” of them.
- Same idea exists in the term “re-generation” Job. 14:14; Matt. 19:28; Tit 3:5 (palin, again; genesis, birth or origin)

# Noah's Generation, Gen. 7:1

- Then the LORD said to Noah, Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in **this generation**.
- 1st definition of the term generation. A group of contemporary people all born and living at the same time.
- When did Noah and his family enter the ark?
- The flood came seven days later (not thousands of years later, but in that same generation.
  - For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth **all living things that I have made.**" (Gen. 7:4)
  - Noah entered the ark in the 600th year of his life, and exited a year later, in the 601st year of his life, Gen. 7:11, 8:13.
- These were the people living in the time of Noah, and Noah lived in the time of that generation.

# Moses' Generation, Gen. 15:13-16

- Here is a specific generation referred to but is clearly not the generation that was living in the time that the prophecy was given.
- Yet it specifically, lists the **precise generation** in which the events would occur as the “**fourth generation**” from Abraham.

# Gen. 15:13-16

- Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.
- And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.
- Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.
- But in **the fourth generation** they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.
- Note how God distinguished between “**this generation**” of Noah, and the “**fourth generation**” from Abraham. Clearly Noah’s events were for “**his generation**”, but Abram’s **were not** for his generation, but the **fourth generation**.

# 400 Year Prophecy

- There is a Hebrew Israelite group out of Chicago, that believes that the count for this prophecy began in 1619, from the time that the first slaves were brought to Jamestown VA, during the time of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.
- They have been on a 400-year countdown which ends next year, 2019, where they believe they will break free from oppression in America (Egypt) and rule and reign with Christ over “Edomites” whom they call Europeans or white people.
- However, researchers have discovered that the first slaves came to this country from Angola, Southwest Africa, in 1607, on a Portuguese ship according to a Washington Post article pub. Sept.
- If true that would be an immediate death blow to their prophecy, as they should have been delivered from America 12 years ago.
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/02/AR2006090201097.html?noredirect=on>

# Biblical Fulfillment

- In the fourth generation
- Israel sojourned in Canaan 215 years and in Egypt 215 years, (Ex. 12:40)
- This agrees with Paul's 430 years for the giving of the Law after the promise was made to Abram. (Gal. 3:17)
- Abram, Isaac, Jacob, His twelve sons (4 generations)
- Levi, Kohath, Amram, **Moses** (4 generations) or one generation beyond since all in that generation died in the wilderness. (Ex. 6:16, 18, 20)
- $215/4 = 54$  years per generation on average)
- Israel came out of Egypt under Moses
- They lived about  $3/4$  to a century longer than we do today

# Israel's Sojourn

7) Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: 'Today, if you will hear His voice,

8) Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness,

9) Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works **forty years**.

10) Therefore, I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart. And they have not known My ways.'

11) So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'

- So the LORD's anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness **forty years**, until **all the generation** that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone. (Num. 32:13)
- That entire generation died in the wilderness.

# “Perverse and Crooked” Generation, Deut. 32:5, 20

- 5) They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, because of their blemish: A **perverse and crooked generation**.
- 19) Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have **forgotten the God who fathered you**.
- 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**.
- 2 Pet. 2:1 “But there were also false prophets among the people even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even **denying the Lord who bought them**, and bring on themselves swift destruction.”

# The Generation to Come, Psalm 102:18

- This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.
- Therefore, from now on, [death & res. v .14-15] we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. (2 Cor. 5:16)
- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (Col. 1:15). See also Col. 1:18, Rev. 3:14; Acts 13:33; Ps. 2:7)
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Cor. 5:16-17)
- Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. (1 Pet. 1:23)
- But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 10) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Pet. 2:9-10)

# Eccl. 1:4

- One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever.

# The Genealogy/Generation of Christ, Matt. 1-17

- So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David unto the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generation, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.
- Do the math:  $14 \times 3 = 42$  Generations
- Birth of Isaac (1900-1800 B.C.)  $1900-1800/42=\text{about } 45-42$
- That is a pretty close average
- It confirms that a generation is about 40 years.

# John, the Coming of Elijah

- John, the Baptist, “Elijah who would come before the great and terrible day of the Lord. Mal. 3:1, 4:4-5; Isa. 40; Matt. 17:10-12; Lk. 1:16-17
- Elijah would come to the “**terminal generation**”.
- He announces the “about to come” wrath of God
- He announces the coming of the Holy Spirit for the “last days” i.e. the **terminal generation**
- He announces judgment and **terminal destruction** in unquenchable fire

# Brood/Generation of Vipers, Matt. 3:7

- But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, '**Brood of vipers**'! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?'
- brood: a family of young animals, especially of a bird, produced at one hatching or birth.
- Synonyms: offspring, young progeny, family, "the bird flew to feed its brood"

# The Terminal Generation

- An even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (Matt. 3:10)
- Root is the foundation and “life” or food support for the tree.
- To cut off the root and burn it in the fire sounds pretty terminal.
- His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. (v 12)

# This Generation

16) But to what shall I liken **this generation**? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions,

17) and saying: We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we mourned to you, and you did not lament.

18) For **John came** neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demons.'

19) The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children.

Note the connection between John's **coming as Elijah** and "**this generation**".

# An Evil Generation, Matt. 12:38-42

38) Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.’”

39) But He answered and said to them, ‘An **evil and adulterous generation** seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

40) For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41) The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with **this generation** and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here

42) The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with **this generation** and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here...

# The Last State Worse, Matt. 23:43-45

43) When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places seeking rest, and finds none.

44) Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

45) Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the **last state of that man is worse than the first.** So shall it also be with this wicked generation.

# The Last State Worse

## 2 Pet 2:20

18) These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever\*

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage)

20) “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are **again entangled** in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

21) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.”

23) But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.

# Evil and Adulterous Generation Seeks A Sign, Matt. 16:1-4

- 1) Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.
- 2) He answered and said to them, ‘When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is read’;
- 3) and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is read and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.
- 4) **A wicked and adulterous generation** seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to **it** except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.”

# Faithless & Perverse Generation, Matt. 17:17

- Then Jesus answered and said, ‘O **faithless and perverse generation**, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to me.’”

# This Generation

## Matt. 23:33-37

33) Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of Gehenna?

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: All this things will come upon this generation

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

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.

# This Generation, Matt. 24:34

- Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place.
- Matt. 23:36-38 = “**this generation**” living in the time of the temple in Jerusalem.
- Matt. 24:34 = “**this generation**” living in the time of the temple, 24:15-18
- Luke 21:32 = “**this generation**” living in the time of the temple, (Luke 21:20-22)
- Matt. 24:36 = “**this generation**” living in the time of the temple, (2 Thess. 2:4-6)

# The Terminal Temple

- There is no other generation that can qualify
- There is no other temple that can qualify
- The terminal temple identifies the terminal generation and the terminal generation identifies the terminal temple and the terminal temple/terminal generation identifies terminal Amillennialism, Postmillennialism, Dispensationalism, Classic Premillennialism, Partial Preterism, and Israel Only

# The Perverse Generation, Acts 2:40; Phil 2:15

- And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this **perverse generation**.
- Do all things without complaining and disputing, 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.

# Objections

1. Generation does not mean the first century generation, but it means the generation that would see all those things.
2. Is it logical to say, “not Noah’s generation” but the generation that would see the flood?
3. Mankind in general? Then some from the flood era should be alive today.
4. If generation means “mankind” in general, then it would mean there are 4 groups of mankind in general, i.e. the “fourth generation”? Where are they?
5. Generation means “race”, i.e. the Jewish race. Jew comes from Judea, i.e. one of 12 tribes of Israel.
6. If it’s race, there are 4 races, per Gen. 15;16; and 42 per Matt. 1:17. Race is a myth, (Acts 17:26) racism is a reality. (Never heard any other genre or species denied their reality because of color, i.e. horses, pigs, birds, cars, houses, clothes, etc.)
7. Eccl. 1:4, if one race passes away and another come, where are the old races that passed away; where are the new races? Why haven’t all the existing ones passed away?
8. Matt. 24:36 is a dividing line between two comings?
9. If so, it is a dividing line between “two temples”. That is Dispensationalism!

# Summary

- This generation in the time of Noah
- The fourth generation in the time of Israel's deliverance from Egypt
- The terminal generation prophesied in Deuteronomy
- The terminal generation of John, (last Elijah) and Jesus' (the last Moses).
- There terminal temple and "terminal futurist eschatology"