

If We Acknowledge That We Are Living In The Final Generation Before Jesus Returns, We Must Also Acknowledge That...

...THE FINAL PROPHETIC EVENTS ARE ALL CONVERGING IN OUR PRESENT GENERATION

Living in the final generation means that the signs described in the Book of Daniel, Matthew 24, and the Book of Revelation are all converging in our present generation and have become everyday, global headline news. This convergence signifies that we are the generation Jesus warned about in Matthew 24:34, the “this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled” generation. Considering that a generation is 70 years (Psalm 90:10) and we have already lived in this final generation for several decades, we are quickly approaching the end of this final generation. To put this in perspective, I am seventy-two years of age and I have no doubt that my eyes will witness the arrival of the Antichrist, and if I am not martyred by then, will witness the return of Jesus.

Jesus taught that following the great increase in ethnic conflicts, wars among empires, overwhelming famines, disease, and natural disasters throughout the world, hostility and persecution against God's people would greatly increase (Matthew 24:7-10). This physical persecution is now intensifying in our present age. Living in this final generation demands the urgency to recognize that we are the final generation and to acknowledge the following:

...THE MAJORITY CLAIMING TO BE CHRISTIAN ARE NOT CHRISTIAN AT ALL.

When the Apostle Paul teaches there will be a “falling away,” a turning away from Christianity prior to the arrival of the Antichrist and the return of Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3), he is warning us that many, if not most, claiming to be Christians are not truly Christian. Most likely this also includes you. He also indicated this to Timothy when he wrote that Christians in the last days will only look and sound like Christians but not truly be Christians, having the “image” of being Christian while “denying the power” that makes them Christian (2 Timothy 3:5).

It is the Holy Spirit that confirms we are truly Christian, not the going to Church, reading the Bible, praying, and such works of the flesh (Romans 8:9). The great falling away from Christianity is not so much a departure from the practices of Christianity as it is a departure from living in the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. While our Christian practices may be alive, the Holy Spirit can be dormant and dead within us. This is the great danger and deception Christians face in our present age. The founder of The Salvation Army, William Booth, nailed it when he wrote:

“The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell.”

Jesus taught this in the two parables of Matthew 25: the Parable of the Ten Virgins and the Parable of the Talents (25:1-13; 25:14-28). In both parables, Jesus taught that having the Holy Spirit within us doesn't make us Christian unless the Holy Spirit is permitted to transform our thoughts, our emotions/spirits, and our words and behavior. Confessing that Jesus is Lord and Savior doesn't make Him your Lord and Savior. Living in the transformative power of the Holy Spirit does.

...WE ARE CURRENTLY LIVING AT THE END OF THE SEVENTY-YEAR GENERATION

The beginning of the final generation began with the convergence and exponential increase of the events Jesus described as the "beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:7-8). Though each of these events have been with us throughout history, never have they been with us all at the same time on a global scale as they are today. It used to be they would appear every few years and not all at once. Today they are with us always, 24/7, blaring from our daily headlines. Let's break down these events in this way:

Nation against nation. The Greek word for nation is *ethnos*, referring to ethnic groups and smaller nations in conflict with one another, including our racial, ethnic, and gender issues so prevalent today. In the common understanding of the word nation, at the beginning of the 1900's there were only about 50 nations in the entire world; today there are over 200 nations. The continual conflicts between nations and people groups exploded in the twentieth century so that today there are daily conflicts among nations somewhere.

Kingdom against kingdom. A kingdom is the same as an empire, such as the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and China which rule over large portions of land not always on the same continent. Never in the history of the world have we had empires warring against each other on a truly global scale involving most nations aligning with one side or the other, not until WWI. Then we had WWII, and now we have most nations involved with the war on Islamic terrorists.

Famines, diseases, earthquakes. Today, we face an unprecedented frequency of famines, diseases, and earthquakes happening simultaneously and daily, more than at any other time in history.

Famines: More than 795 million people experience famine, a staggering number when compared to the entire world population of 700 million in 1750. The number of people impacted by famines today exceeds the world's population of the 1800s and continues to increase in our present age.

Diseases: Over 95% of the world's population suffers from health problems, with over a third having more than five ailments. Despite living longer than ever before, we suffer from diseases to an unprecedented degree, including chronic illnesses in children, which have quadrupled in the past 50 years. Without question, a global disease epidemic dominates our present age. From this epidemic we can expect diseases and pandemics to continue to dominate our culture and continue to increase in frequency and intensity from this point forward.

Earthquakes: It is estimated that 500,000 detectable earthquakes occur globally each year. Every day, somewhere in the world, earthquakes are happening. Of these, 100,000 are felt, and 100 cause damage. The frequency of these earthquakes, combined with other "beginning of sorrows" events, certainly qualifies our current age as the last generation before Jesus returns.

The exponential, simultaneous, global increase of these events is confirmation that the words of Jesus concerning the final generation refers to our present generation.

Israel's return. The events unfolding in our present age would not be considered as the “beginning of sorrows” if Israel had not regained her statehood. Israel’s statehood in 1948, and her reclaiming Jerusalem as her capital in 1967, are pivotal milestones that lets us know that the “beginning of sorrows” has begun.

***...THE FINAL GEOPOLITICAL PIECES NECESSARY FOR THE
ARRIVAL OF THE ANTICHRIST ARE NOW BEING SET IN PLACE***

When the Antichrist is in authority he will arrive out of the realignment of all nations under ten global regions (Daniel 7:7-8). He will then mandate the global cashless economic system known as “666” and the “mark of the beast” and he will make the announcement that he is God from within the rebuilt Temple, indicating there will be peace between Israel and her enemies permitting the Temple to be built.

It is our present generation that is watching as the infrastructure for the realignment of nations, the cashless economy, and peace with Israel is being put into place through the United Nations (UN). The UN already has the nations realigned under ten global regions [1] and the UN’s Agenda 2030 is currently advancing the nations toward a cashless infrastructure and peace with Israel to be in place no later than the year 2030. Once it is all in place, the Antichrist will arrive out of this new world order, broker a peace treaty with Israel, give permission to Israel to rebuild the Temple, and mandate all nations to comply with the global cashless economic system or face death.

Note that this is all taking place in our generation—right now—earth’s final seventy year generation before Jesus returns.

***...OUR LIVES WILL BECOME MORE WORRISOME, STRESSFUL,
AND DIFFICULT AS WE MOVE CLOSER TO THE YEAR 2030.***

This is indicated by Jesus’ teaching of how war, famine, disease, and natural disasters will progressively increase in the same way that birth pains develop. At first there is no pain, then as the pregnancy progresses the uncomfortableness and pain become more frequent and more painful until the pain is excruciating, and the baby is born.

This indicates that each generation becomes more sinful and more stressful than the previous generation. This is why each generation talks of how great sin and evil has become in their generation compared to the previous generation. This degeneration will continue until the Antichrist arrives to unleash the final excruciating pain through the great tribulation. This great tribulation will last less than three and a half years killing one fourth of earth’s population and eventually more than one half of the population before the end of the three and a half years. During this time the remaining population will suffer through war, persecution, famine, disease, and natural disasters.

How stressful these final days will be under the Antichrist is indicated in Jesus’ teaching that these are times we must endure, exercise strong patience and faith, and that will cause many to depart their faith, even the strongest of Christians if that were possible (Matthew 24:24).

**...THE GOSPEL HAS NOW BEEN
PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD**

During this time of great stress and persecution there will be those who will face the dangers head-on by continuing to teach others about why things are happening as they are, where it all is taking us, and where we can find our hope during these perilous times.

The prophet Daniel, writing of these horrible times under the Antichrist, saw in his vision that those who understand would teach many. This teaching will have consequences as Daniel records they will be killed, burned alive, thrown in prison, and have what they own taken from them (Daniel 11:33-35).

The apostle John, in Revelation 10:8-11, also was told to understand the prophecy given to him concerning earth's final seven years and to declare what he saw to many nations, peoples, and world leaders.

The prophet Daniel and the apostle John both warns that the days ahead are going to be filled with great troubles and pressure. We who see these things have the responsibility, at the risk of losing everything, even our lives, for teaching others about what we see coming and to encourage them to prepare by trusting in Jesus and the promise of his return to stop the devastation and to make all things new.

**...THERE IS NO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS LEFT BEFORE
ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE: HOW SHOULD WE NOW LIVE?**

With the year 2030 being the target year set by the United Nations for having all things in place for the arrival of the Antichrist, how should we now live with the mindset that we have only five years before his arrival? Here are a few things to consider:

Be Aware of what is happening from a biblical perspective and tell others what you understand. This is what the prophet Daniel indicated in Daniel 11:33 and Jesus taught when he stated that the gospel would continue to be preached during these perilous times (Matthew 24:14).

Maintain Community with fellow believers and strengthen each other. With all the sin and persecution taking place the tendency will be to separate from the church body and even to be offended by what is happening to fellow Christians, even departing Christianity (Matthew 24:10). During these times—our times—we are to be more united than ever before. We need each other for strength and encouragement to endure what no other generation has experienced before (Matthew 24:13; Hebrews 10:25; James 1:3-4; Revelation 3:2, 14:12-13).

Develop Inner Strength. Teaching of our response to the perilous times we are moving toward, Jesus tells us “be not troubled,” “to endure,” “watch,” “be ready,” “be wise and faithful,” “be filled with the Holy Spirit,” “exercise the Holy Spirit in you,” and “take care of fellow believers” (Matthew 24:6, 13, 42, 44, 45; 25:1-13, 14-30, 31-46). We must find our strength within, with God, and not with what the world offers, even our life.

Pray. Watch and pray. In these challenging times, perhaps the greatest temptation is to accept the cashless system, since without it, we won't be able to buy or sell, pay rent, purchase food and

medicine, or make any type of transaction. Faced with these challenges, many Christians will accept the cashless system and, by doing so, will be worshiping the Antichrist.

To guard against this temptation, Jesus connects watching with prayer. To "watch" is to be vigilant and aware of what is happening and why. We are to observe what is taking place from a biblical perspective, understanding that the pressure will be immense, and understanding that when we remain faithful, even to the point of death, we will receive an eternal inheritance far greater than any current troubles. Does your faith allow you to see the glory and inheritance that will be yours? Hold on a little while longer. It won't be long.

When Jesus encourages us to pray, it is not to change the events that are happening, as that won't happen. Instead, we are to pray for the inner strength to endure and not give up. By staying faithful and praying for the strength to withstand these trials, we can move through these challenging times with faith, patience, and hope.

Prepare Now. Don't wait till the perilous times are excruciating, prepare now. Jesus tells us to "be ready." Don't be like the five foolish virgins who thought their religious works and image would make them ready to meet Jesus only to find out that Jesus would tell them, "I never knew you." There is no reason for any of us not to be ready, as Jesus has told us what was coming and how to prepare before the perilous times overtake us (Matthew 24:25).

The bottom-line to our response is that no matter how hard things become, no matter how much we lose—hold on and don't turn away from your Christian spirit and your hope of Jesus' return. Keep in mind the words of the apostle Paul when he wrote in Romans 8:18: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

In these our days, the signs abound
A time of urgency all around
The Gospel's call, we must proclaim
And live our lives in Jesus' name

Together strong, we face the night
With faith and hope our guiding light
In hearts aflame, His love will burn
Until the day Jesus returns.

Steve Magill, February 8, 2025

[1] *The UN already has the nations realigned under ten global regions as recorded in their The Millennium Development Goals Report of 2009 and 2015.*