

A Generation Goes ... and Comes...

- *A generation goes, and a generation comes; Ecc. 1:4*
- A generation comes about every 20 years.
- Not a clear break as some are longer or shorter.

Generally

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|------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| ● Under 20 | 1 st Generation | Children |
| ● 20 - 40 | 2 nd Generation | Parents |
| ● 40 - 60 | 3 rd Generation | Grand Parents |
| ● 60 - 80 | 4 th Generation | Great Grand Parents |
| ● 80 + | 5 th Generation | Great Great Grand |
- Endless circle of life under the sun: 5 generations

A Generation Goes ... and Comes

- *So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. 8 Now **Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died** when he was one hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. 10 **When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.** Judg 2:7-10*

Endless Circles of Life under the Sun

- Though there are generally five generations.
- Israel's situation was unusual.
- All who were 20 years and older (Num. 14:29) rebelled against God and died in the wilderness.
- During that 40 year period all generations except the 1st died.
- The children alive at that time were the first.
- 0-20 alive at the time of the exodus
- After 40 years, 3 generations grandparents 40-60
- After the conquests (about 15-20 years?)
- These "*elders who outlived Joshua*" were 55-75

Vastly Different Experiences

- As children “*elders*” had lived as slaves in Egypt
- They saw the ten plagues, walked through the Red Sea, witnessed the events at Mount Sinai.
- These early experiences helped mold them.
- Their children, grandchildren great grandchildren experienced the great wealth from the conquests
- Experienced prosperity, ease, and security.
- But influence of the worldly nations around them
- Freedom they gained in their new homes, away from the restraint of Joshua’s leadership.

Moses Warned – They Ignored

- *"So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, 11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant — when you have eaten and are full — 12 then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Deut 6:10-15*

What has been is What will be

- *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. Eccl 1:9*
- Western civilization is experiencing similar event.
- The “*greatest*” Generation (1901-1924) and the “*silent*” Generation (1925-45) experienced two world wars and the great depression between.
- This molded and formed their character. Great deprivations, incredible sacrifices and terrible losses, led them to lean on God.
- Majority accepted God’s existence and revered the Bible.

History Repeating Itself

- *The generation after them did not know the Lord.*
- The “*baby boomer*” generation (1946-1964) was raised in an entirely different environment.
- We transitioned into period of prosperity and ease.
- This different time molded very different attitudes
- God said of Sodom: She had “*pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness*” which lead being *haughty*” and “*committing abomination*. Ezek. 16:49-50
- The same things, which snared Sodom and Israel as they entered the promised land has now ensnared many today.

Contributing Factors

- Prosperity and peace began in the 1950's.
- Sexual revolution in the 1960's.
- Medical advances created "the pill," and legalized abortion in 1973 have allowed 62 million pregnancies since then to end in the sacrifice of an infant. Terrible impact on character of this nation.
- Technology created many "servants of steel" bringing us "*fulness of food and abundance of idleness.*"
- "*Pride*" grew and respect for authority dwindled.
- Police called "pigs." Loyal soldiers scorned and mistreated, proverb "don't trust anyone over 30."

Generation who Knew not the Lord

- This generation became teachers, employers, leaders and even preachers in the 1970's.
- New message from school, business, government and even pulpits moving from Scripture to secular.
- Called vice in the 50's slowly became legal and normal. Adultery, prostitution, drug use, gambling and homosexuality are now acceptable behavior.
- Divorce grew and sacred nature of marriage declined
- Respect for the Word of God has plummeted.
- Begins of persecution against those who still believe Bible is inspired and every word, must be believed, preached and obeyed.

A Challenging Time for Christians

- The generation “*of those who served the Lord,*” are leaving the earth, they are being replaced by:
- “*although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*” Rom. 1:21
- Our faith and convictions must be protected.
- Paul’s warning that “*bad company corrupts good morals,*” (1Cor. 15:33), no longer just immorality and ungodliness. It must be broadened to include those rejecting inspiration and advocating ways to accept what the Scriptures condemn.

Paul's Warning to Timothy

- *in the last days perilous times will come.*
- *Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.”*
- *“And from such people turn away!” 2Tim. 3:1-6*

What Timothy Faced ... We Face

- We must be on guard against any “*root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*” (Heb. 12:15).
- What happens in the world seeks to enter the church
- Scripture openly mocked even among “disciples”
Come out from among them And be separate, 'says the Lord. 'Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. 'I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, 'Says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2Cor. 6:17-18; 7:1

Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

- That is the Rock the church is built on Mt. 16:16
Jesus is *the Word who was with God and was God*
- “*All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made.*” (Jn. 1:1-3).
- Although in the flesh, nothing else changed!
- He now reigns at the right hand of God exalted.
Nothing anyone says or does can change this!
- “*this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*”
(1Jn. 5:4-5).
- As long as we hold fast victory is assured!

The NT is Absolute Truth!

- Those who doubt this doubt Jesus
- *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Jn. 14:6*
- *If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,” Jn. 8:31-32*
- What is my response? If we have doubts about this we move away and leave God behind:
““Whoever goes onward and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.” (2Jn. 9).

We Must Stand

- Generations come and go, cultural norms change
- The world some knew becomes unrecognizable
- Jesus and His Scriptures are absolute: No Change
- Things may get worse or better as new generations come after these. We may face persecution for our convictions.
- We are trying to influence the next generations so we must stand firm, hold fast and preach truth.
- As apostles of Jesus were “*rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.*” (Acts 5:41-42).

We Must Never Forget

- *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.'"* 2Tim. 2:19