

Doctrine of “This generation”

1. A critical verse in understanding Matthew 24 is found in verse 34. Having given many signs of impending judgment upon Israel in AD 30, the Lord told the disciples that their generation would not pass until everything He had prophesied was fulfilled.
 - *Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.*

2. The following passages should be studied to find out how the phrase “*this generation*” is used.
 - *Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*
 - *Matthew 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*
 - *Matthew 12:45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.*
 - *Matthew 23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.*
 - *Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.*
 - *Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*
 - *Mark 13:30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.*
 - *Luke 11:29 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet.*
 - *Luke 11:31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*
 - *Luke 11:30 For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.*

- *Luke 11:32 The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*
 - *Luke 11:51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.*
 - *Luke 17:25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.*
 - *Luke 21:32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.*
 - *Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.*
2. Those who heard the language of Jesus or Peter using the phrase, “*this generation*”, knew the speaker was talking about them.
 3. When the Word of God wants to indicate another generation than the present one, the proper language is used as in Hebrews 3:10, where the Lord says He was grieved with “*that generation*.” Everyone can understand that the generation the Lord was not pleased with was the Exodus generation.
 - *Hebrews 3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.*
 4. To insist that in the Olivet Discourse Jesus was speaking of things to come to pass in a future generation than that of the disciples is confusing at best, and a violation of the normal usage of language.
 5. Jesus spoke prophetically of many events that would come to pass in the generation in which the disciples lived, and history confirms that what the Lord said would happen, did indeed happen.