

Doctrine of Eschatology

“This Generation”

Mark 13:30

“Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.”

1. The critics of Christ contend that the predictive coming Jesus spoke about did not occur within the time frame He indicated.
2. If the critics are correct, then Jesus is not a true Prophet, and the Bible is not the Word of God.
3. The critical phrase in the Olivet Discourse is the phrase *“this generation shall not pass till all these things be done.”*
4. Jesus spoke these words in AD 30. A Biblical generation is approximately forty years. The question is this. “Did Jesus come within the forty year time period prophesied?”
5. The simple answer is that all the words of Christ were fulfilled within the generation to which He referred.
6. The fulfillment of prophesy can be seen when it is understood that both normal (literal), and apocalyptic (figurative) language was used by Christ to communicate His message.
7. Determining what portion of the Olivet Discourse is normal (literal) and what portion is figurative, is enhanced by allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture, especially in those portions where apocalyptic language is used.
8. Skeptics who want to discredit the Olivet Discourse believe they find room to comment because of the limitation Jesus placed, even on Himself, in v. 32.
 - *Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*
9. Jesus was speaking from His humanity, not from His divinity. In His humanity Jesus knew only what ordinary individuals know, as revealed by God. However, His words do not remove the time frame established in v. 30. He simply did not know the day or hour the events He predicted would come to pass, but He did know the generation.
 - *Mark 13:30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.*

10. The phrase “this generation” refers to the group of people that were living when Christ was alive and to whom He was speaking. Confirmation for this comes by comparing Scripture with Scripture.
- *Matthew 1:16 “whereunto shall I liken this generation?”*
 - *Matthew 12:41 “shall rise in judgment with this generation.”*
 - *Matthew 12:42 “rise up in the judgment with this generation”*
 - *Matthew 12:45 “shall it be also unto this wicked generation”*
 - *Matthew 23:36 “things shall come upon this generation”*
 - *Matthew 24:34 “This generation shall not pass, till all”*
 - *Mark 8: 38 “shall no sign be given unto this generation”*
 - *Mark 13:30 “that this generation shall not pass, till all”*
 - *Luke 11:29 “He began to say, This is an evil generation”*
 - *Luke 11:31 “the men of this generation and condemn”*
 - *Luke 11:30 “also the Son of man be to this generation”*
 - *Luke 11:32 “with this generation and condemn it”*
 - *Luke 11:51 “It shall be required of this generation”*
 - *Luke 17:25 “and be rejected of this generation”*
 - *Luke 21:32 “This generation shall not pass, till”*
 - *Acts 2:40 “yourselves from this untoward generation”*
11. When the Word of God wants to indicate another generation than the present one being addressed, the proper language is used as in Hebrews 3:10 where the Lord says He was grieved with “that generation.”
12. Everyone understands the generation the Lord was not pleased with was the Exodus generation which had come out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses.
13. To contend that in Mark 13 Jesus was speaking of events to come in a far distant generation is confusing at best, and a violation of the normal usage of language.
14. Jesus spoke prophetically of many events that would come to pass in the generation in which the disciples lived. History confirms that what the Lord said would happen, did happen.
15. What is certain is that the phrase, “*this generation*”, does not refer to a “sort”, “kind”, or “type” of generation, thereby allowing the events of the Olivet Discourse to be cast into the future 2000 plus years from AD 30. But it was not a “mind frame”, or a “time frame” type that Jesus was speaking about. He meant people living to whom He was talking.
16. The phrase, “*shall not pass*”, refers to death. There were certain individuals to whom Jesus spoke who were not to die till all the events spoken in the Olivet Discourse were fulfilled, including seeing the Son of Man in glory.
17. At the Transfiguration, the glory of Christ was revealed, and also in His resurrection, and His ascension into heaven.

- The Glory of the Son of Man in His Transfiguration. *Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*
- The Glory of the Son of Man in His Resurrection. *John 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. 19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*
- The Glory of the Son of Man in His Ascension. *Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
- The Glory of the Son of Man in His Judgment on Israel.

18. The final form of glory mentioned might raise some spiritual eyebrows, but there is glory when sin is judged. Israel had rejected the Messiah. Israel had killed the Lord of Glory. Israel had cried out that the blood of Jesus be upon them and their children. And, in His wrath, God spilt the blood of those who killed Christ and persecuted the Christians. What Jesus said would happen, John saw would happen in the Revelation, and the saints cried, “Glory to the Warrior Lamb!”

- *Revelation 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.*
- *Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*
- *Revelation 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:*