

ENGAGE

- What is a Generation?
- Which generation was Jesus speaking of in Matthew 24?
- The article/ commentary attached to the email is a fair understanding of the two prevailing views of Matthew 24 and specifically the definition of a generation. I know it is long and a bit heady. Still, it gives very good understanding of preterist and futurist views of the question I will be addressing this Sunday.
- I will be discussing the Jewish, early Christian and present understandings on the terms, “this generation” and “the fig tree symbolism”.

EXAMINE

Psalm 90:10

[Psalm 90:10](#). The days of our years — Of the generality of mankind, in that and all following ages, some few persons excepted, are threescore years and ten — Which time the ancient heathen writers also fixed as the usual space of men’s lives. And if by reason of strength — That is, more than ordinary strength of constitution, which is the common cause of longer life; they be — In some individuals; fourscore years — At which age few indeed arrive; yet is their strength — Their strongest and most vigorous old age; labour and sorrow — Filled with troubles and griefs from the infirmities of age, the approach of death, and the contingencies of human life. For it is soon cut off — Our strength doth not then decline by slow degrees, as it doth in our flourishing age, but decays apace; we do not then go, nor run toward death, as we do from our very birth, but we fly swiftly toward it, or, fly away like a bird, as the word נִעְפָּה, nagnupha, here used, signifies. “If the time here specified by Moses be thought too short a term for the general standard of human life in those early ages, yet it suits well with the particular case of the Israelites in the wilderness, whose lives were shortened by an express decree, so that a great number of them could not possibly reach the age of seventy; and those who did, probably soon felt a swift decay.” — Dodd.

Matthew 24:34 (See Email attachment)

QUESTIONS

- If the fig tree represents Israel, what can be construed by the comment Jesus made about the fig tree and all other trees coming into bloom?
- Do you think the comment is simply about seeing the season and signs ahead or a clear reference to the nation of Israel?
- If the word “generation” means the “race” or people of Israel, did the People of Israel disappear or still in existence?

- If the word “generation” means “the people living in the time Jesus is speaking of, then how do you see this text speaking about the people living in that day verses the people that would be living in the Last Day?
- How would you define the lifespan of a generation?
- Do you think Psalm 90 gives us a good representation of what a generation is?
- If a generation is 70 -80 years and Israel is the fig that comes into bloom, can you see the imminent day ahead that is coming? Explain.