

## CHRIST'S WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY

### **Matthew 24:34 (NKJV)**

**34** Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

The best way to take this is in the straightforward sense. People have tried to tie generation which normally refers to a 30-100 year period of time (a human lifespan) to the idea that all these things had to be fulfilled in the lifetime of the disciples and therefore try to tie the fulfillment of all these things to what happened in A.D. 70 (cf. Mt. 23:36). But that completely misses the context which Jesus clearly ties to the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel that ushers in the Second Coming (cf. Mt. 24:15).

Some have tried to tie it with the idea that the fig tree symbolizes Israel – claiming that within a generation of Israel becoming a nation again in 1948 that the end would come. But again, that misses the simple and clear point that Christ is making that relates “all these things” to the future time of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.

Some have said that “generation” (genea) here should be understood in the sense of a race, nation, or people (referring to the Jews) – meaning the promise is that the Jews will be preserved until all these things are fulfilled. That is certainly true but again I don't think that is what Christ is saying here.

The best view is that Christ is simply saying that the generation that is alive and “sees all these things” (the tribulation signs) “will by no means pass away till all these things take place.” In other words, this is another way of saying that once these things begin to happen there will be no delay – but will quickly come to pass.

“The word generation means what it normally means, that is, a period of thirty to one hundred years, and refers to the particular generation that will see the specific signs, that is, the signs of the great tribulation.” – **John Walvoord**

“The very generation that sees the beginning of these things will see the end.” – **F.W. Grant**

Things will be severe to the point of being unprecedented, but that generation will survive – although many will die in the process.

**Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)**

**35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Heaven and earth will eventually pass away, but Christ says, “but My words will by no means pass away” (cf. 2 Pet. 3:10-13). Everything that Christ has said will have a fulfillment to the letter. Christ’s entire reputation and credibility is on the line. What He prophesied in terms of the details related to the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel and His climactic return “will by no means pass away” but will be fulfilled.

In saying this, Christ in effect claims that His words have the same reliability and enduring quality as that of God’s Word in the Old Testament.

**Matthew 5:18 (NKJV)**

**18** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle **will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.**

The OT Scriptures are absolutely certain to be fulfilled, and just as sure are Christ’s words absolutely certain to be fulfilled. Christ’s Words are permanent and carry divine authority.

**Someone has said** that life is like a feature-length film with God as its director. Freeze- framing the film in a dark time leads to hopelessness. But as believers in Christ, we should let the film roll, knowing that in the end Jesus returns as conquering KING of kings and as LORD of lords in power and great glory.

In your life don’t “freeze-frame” on the dark times. Rather, let the film role on to the end and never lose sight of how this story ends.

In Revelation 19 as heaven is opened at the Second Coming and Christ is seen coming in victory on a white horse it then says, “***And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.***” (Rev. 19:14). My fellow believers, that is us! We are going to follow in the train of Christ coming in “***power and great glory***”. What a day that will be!

Heaven and earth will pass away, but Christ's Words will by no means pass away.

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)