

# THE FINAL GENERATION

## INTRO

There is a significant privileged generation singled out to be a part of the Last Days' plan of God. There is a generation of the Church who won't see death but will be alive at an event called the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:51,52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). They are also the exception generation to Heb. 9:27, "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment." All men have an appointment with death, except those in the Church alive at the moment of the Rapture. Not only is there a generation who won't see death, but there is a generation who would not pass away but will be alive to see all the physical signs fulfilled that point to Jesus' literal, physical coming to earth or the Second Advent/Coming. The Rapture is described as being an imminent event (it can happen at any moment), but the Second Advent/Coming would be preceded by recognizable signs. There would be physical signs of the nearness of His physical return.

### I. Signs This Generation Would See

- A. Mtt. 24:4-8      **An accelerated time of troubling world events known as the beginning of sorrows.**
- wars - nation vs. nation (ethnic)
  - earthquakes, from 1970-1990 - 99 earthquakes registered at 6 or above on Richter scale in this 20-year period as compared to only 40 registered at over 6 in the previous 90 years.
- B. Mtt. 24:36-41  
Lk. 17:28-30  
2 Pe. 2,3      **Conditions similar to the days of Noah and the days of Lot.**
- People going about normal pursuits of life, even though warning being preached in Noah's time for over 100 years -- living like "business as usual", "life will go on as always".
- People were hearing but not being affected by what they heard. They "knew not" till after the door was shut. They lived like life would go on forever. Times were also extremely violent (Gen. 6:11-13). Days of Lot were days of extreme sexual perversion and open/unashamed display of ungodliness; homosexuality is noted.
- Mockers/ridiculers: those who play or jest in mocking tones; to mock or scorn, deride through facial expressions and tones of voice.
- C. Lk. 21:29-33      **The blossoming of Israel as a nation and their being returned to their land.**
- Fig tree: frequent biblical symbol of Israel (Jer. 24:4-6; Joel 1:6; Hos. 9:10). Here Jesus associated seeing the blossoming of the fig tree, blossoming of Israel, with the nearness of His physical return. In 1948, Israel became an independent nation as they were regathered/returned to their land (Ez. 36:20-24; Jer. 16:14,15).
- D. Lk. 21:34      **The city of Jerusalem no longer trodden down of the Gentiles.**
- Their gathering would reclaim their land and Holy City.
  - In 70 A.D.--was destroyed, Jews scattered--trodden down of Gentiles.
  - 1967--city recaptured in Six-Day War.
- E. Lk. 21:34-36      **General unawareness of nearness of His return among those living on the earth.**
- Even though the nearness of His return would have recognizable signs, the Second Advent/Coming is described as being like a thief in the night. This speaks of it coming with

many being unaware. A thief in the night comes on the scene undetected and unaware to those not looking.

The reason--lives entangled with the affairs of this life. Lives burdened with overindulgence, drunkenness, everyday worries of life.

Number one drug in America is still alcohol. It's responsible for 50% of all deaths, murders, suicides, accidental deaths. Claims 100,00 lives a year, which is 20 times more than any other illegal drug. Connected to 60% of all child abuse, 80% of all home violence.

Think about the influence of T.V. Our generation is the first to grow up with T.V. By age 18, every child has seen 100,000 beer commercials, has seen people drinking beer 24 times more than coffee and 120 times more than milk; by age 21, has seen over 300,000 commercial messages mostly reinforcing personal gratification and materialism.

## **II. What Kind of People Should That Generation Be**

- A. Lk. 21:36--watchful/prayerful--in prayer.
- B. Heb. 10:25--assembling with the Body--in church.
- C. Jms. 5:7,8--patient/stablished our heart in God/Word--in the harvest.
- D. 2 Pe. 3:1-3,11,14--stirred/pure--in holiness.
- E. 2 Pe. 3:17,18--diligently growing in grace/knowledge--in the Word.