

Perspective

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This Generation Shall Not Pass!

Jesus of Nazareth made a striking statement to His disciples: *“Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.”* (Matthew 24:34) This verse comes after Jesus describes signs and events that will precede the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish state (vv. 32–35). He uses the fig tree parable to indicate the coming events are *“at the doors”* (v. 33). Some feel *“this generation”* refers to the people living at the time Christ spoke these words — not all humanity, but the specific generation present during His ministry. The Temple in Jerusalem was demolished in AD 70 by Roman General Titus, just as Jesus predicted in Matthew 24:2, but this is not the context of the powerful statement in verse 34. Prior to saying *“this generation shall not pass,”* Jesus talked about the signs in the heavens, the return of the Son of man, and the gathering of the elect from the four winds at the end of the age (Matthew 24:29-31). So, which one of the generations was Jesus referring to, and what are the ramifications of it?

The advent of nuclear bombs

The Enola Gay took off at 2:45 a.m. from North Field on Tinian Island in the Northern Mariana Islands on August 6, 1945. This location was part of the U.S. military base used during World War II for operations in the Pacific. The Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Enola Gay, commanded by Paul Tibbets, dropped the atomic bomb, dubbed *Little Boy*, at 8:15 a.m. over the center of Hiroshima, detonating at an altitude of about 1,900 feet above the city.

The bomb exploded producing an intense flash of heat, a powerful blast wave, and widespread fires. Buildings were flattened across much of the city and temperatures near the explosion eviscerated people and animals.; those not killed sustained severe burns. People close to the detonation were killed almost immediately, while many farther away suffered injuries, burns, and radiation exposure. By the end of 1945, an estimated 140,000 people had died as a result of the explosion and its aftermath, including injuries and radiation sickness. Many survivors experienced long-term health effects, including increased rates of certain cancers and other illnesses. Three days later, on August 9, the plutonium-based atomic bomb, *Fat Boy*, was dropped on Nagasaki. These bombings, together with the broader military and political situation, preceded Japan's announcement of its surrender, bringing World War II to an end.

These two powerful events brought the world into the atomic era. The concept of a hydrogen bomb, or thermonuclear weapon, emerged during the 1940s inspired by the potential of nuclear fusion—the same process that powers stars. The first hydrogen bomb, which is also called a thermonuclear or fusion weapon, was developed in the early 1950s and successfully tested by the United States on November 1, 1952. This second-generation hydrogen bomb (H-bomb) is the most destructive weapons ever created, and typically produce yields exceeding first-generation nuclear weapons by twenty times. Wikipedia states: *“The Tsar Bomba is the most powerful nuclear weapon or weapon of any kind ever constructed and tested. A project of the Soviet Union, it was a thermonuclear aerial bomb, tested on 30 October 1961 at the Novaya Zemlya site in the country's far north. The bomb yielded the equivalent of 50 megatons of TNT.”*

A 50-megaton bomb would create a blast radius of about 7.5 miles and cause extensive damage within this area. The effects would include complete destruction of buildings, severe injuries, and fatalities, along with widespread fires and radiation fallout. As of early 2025 the U.S. nuclear arsenal totals 5,177 warheads. Russia currently possesses about 5,460 nuclear warheads. China is expected to surpass 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030. The world has a sufficient stockpile of nuclear weapons to wipe out human civilization several times over, when once would be quite enough. During the 1980s, scientific research on the concept of nuclear winter suggested that smoke from burning cities could cool the planet dramatically, reducing agriculture for years and producing global famine. There is an ongoing debate about the precise magnitude of the effects.

What did Jesus say?

In describing the events of the end times, Jesus said, *“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”* (Matthew 24:21-22)

The generation Jesus meant was during the time of the end of the age. He described a time totally unlike any other time in history. Daniel 12:1 described that same time: *“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time...”*

U.S. President Donald Trump has gotten two things right

He clearly sees that the Iranians cannot be trusted, and that NATO cannot be relied upon as allies. On July 8, 2026, *13abc.com* stated, President Donald Trump called Iran ‘cuckoo’ and warned that the United States is preparing for another night of strikes against the country. He said, “They’ll agree on everything, and then they’ll go and have a news conference and say we never even talked about it. They’re cuckoo. There’s something wrong with these people, and for 47 years they’ve been the bully of the Middle East, and they’re not the bully anymore,” Trump said. Trump said the ceasefire was ‘over’ after Iran attacked American military sites...”

Yahoo.com published an article titled, “You’re not going to have a Europe,” on the U.S. presidents’ trip to Turkey for the NATO meetings on July 8, 2026, “He (President Trump) then launched into a stem-winding rant about various NATO allies’ reaction to the war, first claiming he did not want help from any of them while complaining about the ‘trillions of dollars’ the U.S. has ‘invested’ in the alliance ‘to protect European countries’ from Russia. ‘I say that’s fine, but you would think that they’d be very willing to do something to help us, and they really weren’t,’ he said. ‘We didn’t need any help at all, and in a way, I was testing people, I was testing to see whether or not they’d be there, because I’ve long said that we helped them, but I’m not sure that they’d be there for us. And Italy turned us down, and Germany turned us down, and France turned us down, and it’s okay, but you know, why are we spending hundreds of billions of dollars, and they’re not there for us, we’ve always been there for them?’”

Unintended consequences of the push for NATO nations to arm themselves

Trump repeatedly criticized European members of NATO for spending too little on defense. Many analysts argue that President Donald Trump has unintentionally encouraged greater European unity by pushing European governments to cooperate more closely on defense, security, and economic policy. Not that the NATO nations agree with Trump; rather, his policies and rhetoric are pushing European leaders to rearm and act together. The fact that Russia’s Putin makes threats against Europe emboldens them to act more quickly---such that ten nations could form a pact which would make them a superpower. The population of Europe is about 750 million people with a combined GDP of \$ 25 trillion compared to the United States \$ 30.62 trillion and a population of 347 million people. Revelation 17:12–13 describes a prophetic vision of ten future kings who will rise in the last days, who align with the beast, and wage war. They war against the end-time saints, and they will ultimately battle against Jesus Christ at His second coming (Revelation 13:7; Revelation 17:14).

Some have suggested the ten kings will be given ten regions to rule over the whole world, but this cannot be true. The end-time beast power will not rule over Gog and Magog which is probably Russia and China. It will not initially rule over the king of the South: *“At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.”* (Daniel 11:40)

Revelation 13:7 says, *“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.”* Obviously, this must mean the beast will exercise domination and great influence over the entire world by the magnitude of its military might. Revelation 13:4 states, *“Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”*

Prior to the return of Christ, the great armies of the beast and the north and eastern armies of the hordes of Gog and Magog will still be fighting it out as they gather in the Valley of Jezreel at the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). When Jesus Christ returns, they turn their weaponry on Him, but to no avail (Daniel 11:44; Revelation 17:14).

Jesus said Luke 21:20, 29-32, *“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near... Then He spoke to them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So, you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.’”*