



## “Generation No”

July 31, 2022

### August Meeting Schedule

- Aug. 7 - Class
- Aug. 14 – EPCC not available
- Aug. 21 – Class
- Aug. 28 – Pending
- Sept. 4 – No class – Labor Day
- Sept. 11 – EPCC not available

### 12 areas where believers have doubts:

1. Does God really exist?
2. Is Jesus Christ really God?
3. Is Jesus the only way to God?
4. Can I really trust the Bible?
5. Did I really become a Christian?
6. Have I lost my salvation?
7. Isn't faith just a leap in the dark?
8. If God is a God of love, then why does He allow so much suffering?
9. Is God really in control of the world?
10. Is there any point in praying?
11. **Is heaven and hell real?**
12. **Is Jesus really coming back?**

### 11. Is heaven and hell real?

#### God has created 2 places for eternal existence:

##### **Matt 25:31-33**

- 31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.
- 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;
- 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

##### **Matt 25:41, 46**

- 41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;
- 46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

#### Punishment

##### **Matt 10:28**

28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

##### **2 Thess 1:9**

9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

##### **2 Peter 2:4**

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

##### **Rev 20:15**

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## Matt 23:33

33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?"

## Rev 20:1-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## Reward

### Phil 3:20

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

### Col 1:4-5

4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel

### 1 Peter 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

### 1 Thess 4:16

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

## 12. Is Jesus really coming back?

### John 14:1-3

1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

### Acts 1:6-7

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

### Mark 13:33-37

33 "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.

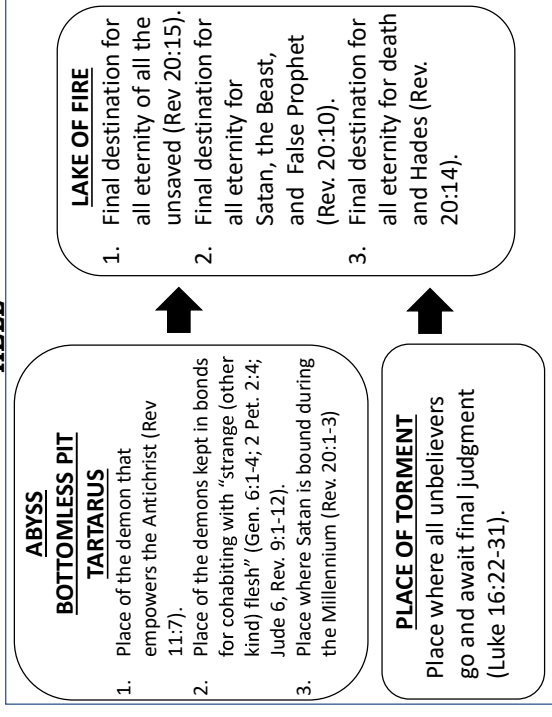
34 "It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.

35 "Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning —

36 in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep.

37 "What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"

## HELL



- Heaven and hell are real. Jesus spoke much about both of them, as did all of the N.T. writers.
- Heaven and hell express the realities of the truths of reward (heaven) and punishment/justice (hell).
- If you understand God's purpose for them, then you will not doubt their existence.

## Matt 24:30-36

30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

34 "Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.**

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

36 "**But of that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

#### 1 Thess 4:14-17

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a **shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

#### 1 Thess 1:9-10

9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,  
10 and to **wait for His Son** from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

#### Titus 2:11-13

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,**

#### Phil 3:20

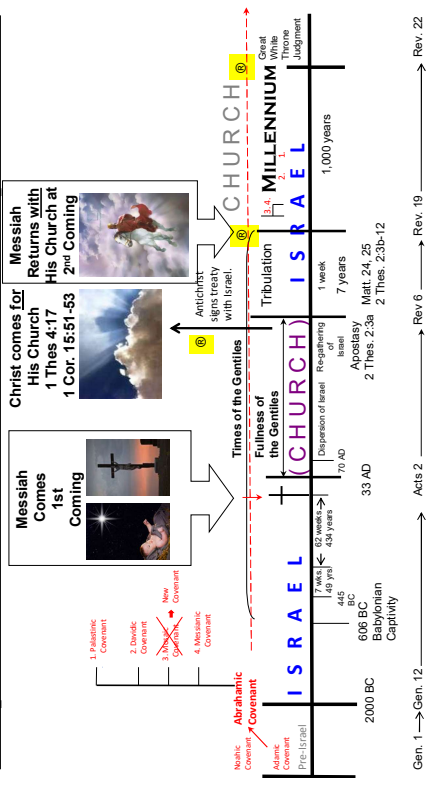
20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly **wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;**

• Believers doubt His coming because they were told we are seeing the signs or foreshadows that indicate that we are 1 minute to twelve. “The pieces are all in place.” He must come very, very soon.

• We have more people talking about the appearing of the Antichrist than talking about the appearing of Christ.

• Look for the Son and not signs, and you will not doubt His coming.

## Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



Ⓜ = Resurrection

### Luke 7:29,30

29 When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God's justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

30 But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.

### Luke 7:31-35

31 "To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like?

32 "They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'

33 "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!'

34 "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

35 "Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

31 "To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like?

- This is a common way the Rabbi's spoke.
- Used to introduce a parable, illustration, or analogy.
- We get to see what Jesus thinks about His generation.

## Luke 9:41

"You unbelieving and **perverted generation**, how long shall I be with you and put up with you?"

## Luke 11:29

29 As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, "This generation is a **wicked generation**; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah."

## Luke 17:25

25 "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this **generation**."

## Phil 2:14-15

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;  
15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a **crooked and perverse generation**, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

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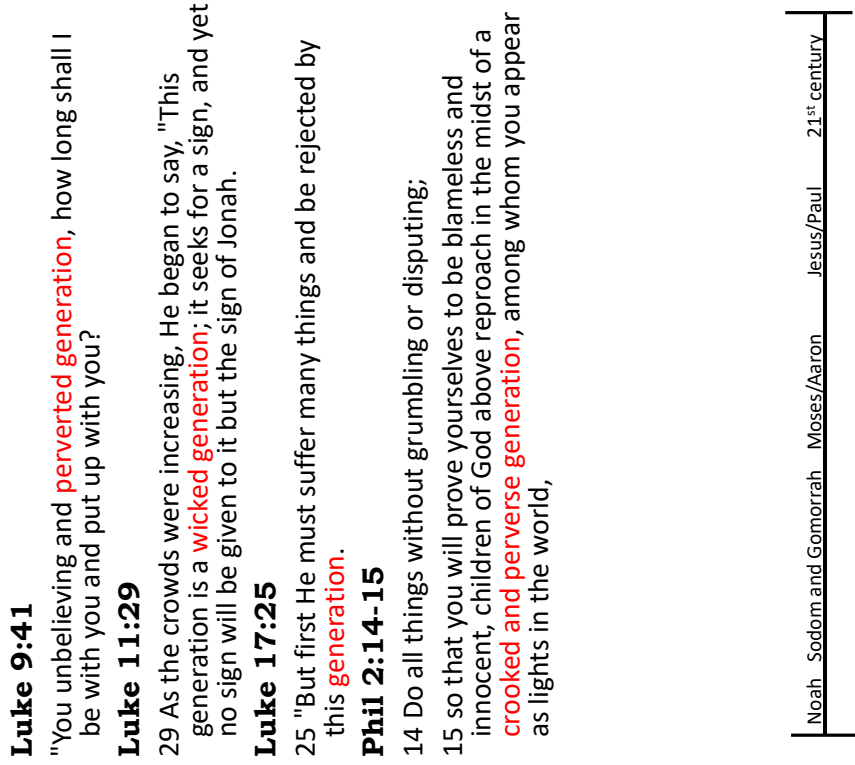
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- We get to see what Jesus thinks about His generation.
- Here a generation refers to those who were a dominant force among the people.

### Questions:

1. Was Jesus' generation more perverted or less perverted than today's generation?
2. What are your benchmarks?
3. Was there anything different about the first century generation than our 21<sup>st</sup> century generation?
4. There is only 1 thing that would classify the first century generation as worse than today?

### Matt 12:32

32 "Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."



## 1 Cor 6:9-11

- 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,  
10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.  
11 Such were some of you;

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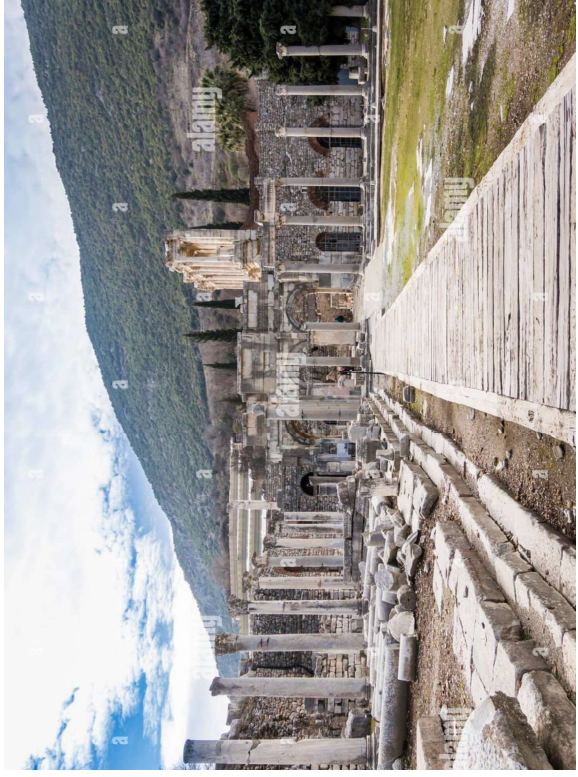
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- "market place" – a place where people would sell their goods, produce, clothing, etc.
- When the people cleared out, children could play in that spot. Here they are mimicking their parents or what they have observed in the town they lived in. The biggest events in a town were weddings and funerals. Nothing was happier and nothing was sadder.



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- Some children call to other children, "Hey, let's play wedding."
- So they proceed to play "wedding". They divide up the parts. Someone plays the flute.
- But the other children refuse to dance. Stubborn.
- "Ok, then let's play funeral." They divide up the parts. Someone sings a dirge. But the other group refuses to act the part of weeping.
- **Principle:** No matter what you do, what kind of a service you have, even at the opposite ends of the spectrum and very different, some people aren't going to budge.

**33 "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!'"**

- Jesus now says let's take that principle and apply it to the Pharisees.
- First God sends John the Baptist – lived in the desert, ate locusts and honey. Wore camel hair. No bread, no wine. Didn't associate with people.
- He brings a message of repentance (judgment, wrath, mourning over sin). John brings the sad song being played in a minor key. He is the funeral.
- Pharisees response: "He has a demon." Bizarre behavior & madness were associated with demons.
- Pharisees: John is a weirdo. Separatist. Different. Radical. Fanatical. Extreme.
- So the Pharisees conclude, "We are not going to play that game."

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- God now sends Jesus.
- Just the opposite of John. Different style of ministry.
- Jesus is the wedding.
- The Pharisees accuse him of being a glutton, a drunkard, and a friend of the scum of this earth.
- Jesus did not isolate. He was there among the people. Always.
- The Pharisees concluded, "We aren't going to play that game either."

**The Pharisees were like stubborn little kids -**

- If you wanted to play the funeral game, they wouldn't play.
- If you wanted to play the wedding game they wouldn't play.
- The Pharisees were caught-up in the external.
- What they really hated was the message, the truth, regardless of who presented the message and what style they used.

**John the Baptist**

Serious

John was fasting

Fiery

Tender, merciful,  
gracious, compassionate.

Associated with nobody. Associated with everybody.

Message of judgment  
Message of grace and mercy  
and joy.

**Jesus**

Social

Jesus was feasting

"The plain truth is that the natural heart of man hates God. The carnal mind is enmity against God. It dislikes His law, His Gospel, and His people. It will always find some excuse for not believing and obeying. The doctrine of repentance is too strict for it! The doctrine of faith and grace is too easy for it! John the Baptist goes too much out of the world! Jesus Christ goes too much into the world! And so the heart of man excuses itself for sitting still in its sins. All this must not surprise us. We must make up our minds to find unconverted people as perverse, unreasonable, and hard to please as the Jews of our Lord's time. We must give up the vain idea of trying to please everybody. The thing is impossible, and the attempt is mere waste of time. We must be content to walk in Christ's steps, and let the world say what it likes. Do what we will, we shall never satisfy it, or silence its ill-natured remarks. It first found fault with John the Baptist, and then with his blessed Master. And it will go on cavilling and finding fault with the Master's disciples so long as one of them is left upon earth"

- J.C. Ryle

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**"vindicated"** – δικαιωω - proven, justified.

- Children here are those who are saved. Those who have repented and believed in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Their transformed lives prove the wisdom that is found in following both the message of John the Baptist unto repentance and the message of Jesus of grace, mercy, and forgiveness of sin unto salvation.
- For those who follow the Pharisees, foolishness is proved by all of their children.

**3 Questions:**

1. Are you part of the "Generation No"?
2. Have you said yes to the gospel?
3. Does your transformed life prove the wisdom found in the message of the gospel?