

WHAT IS A GENERATION

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It has come to my attention a question about the term Generation. Here is a condensed study of this subject:

Biblically speaking there is more than one definition of a generation.

Generation: From where we get Genesis and Genus and Genome from among others. Having the root of the word “beginnings” the generation start not ending is what is important.

A generational take over: from one generation to the next running things is the most general definition of the term: Biblically is the number 40. This number in Biblical numerology is typically probationary testing completion as 39 is the test. Look up all the references for forty where the number resides alone. This would be the age of a generation that is taking over on average. (For testing: Noah’s flood, Isaac’s age when he took Rebekah to wife [the generations were different in those days], Moses in the mount forty days and nights. Then there is the wondering in the wilderness forty years till all the generation that complained died, so the new generation would be at the most 40 years old when they took over. Numbers 32:13 is the definitive passage.

There is also a generational age: from one generation to the birth of the next, another wording for this is the generation gap. This is very different from the above. The number for this would be 25 (or thereabouts). This would be the age of the parent when a child is born on average. Numbers 8:24 shows the generational gap in age when the Levites were able to go in to wait upon the service, this is not a maturity age, but an adulthood age.

The next one is the generational maturity: this by law in the US is 18 to 21; however, the Bible has this age at 30. This is the age of a generation to its maturity not its adulthood. Joseph’s age when he stood before Pharaoh Genesis 41:46. To do the work of the tabernacle it was required to be 30 at a minimum: Numbers 4:3,

23; 4:30, 35, 39, 43, 47. David was 30 years old when he began to reign: 2 Samuel 5:4. And Jesus Christ started His ministry about the age of 30: Luke 3:23.

So right off here are three completely different contextual references for the word “generation” that have very different starting points, the length of these are also different.

The generation for prophecy would fit the 40 years take over from the previous generation which would be around 70 to 80. Psalms 90:10, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten (70); and if by reason of strength they be fourscore (80) years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” Cut off is death, and fly way is a resurrection. The church age is allotted a 2000 year time element from the death of the testator to the resurrection (rapture) of the church. There is an overlapping between Old and New Testaments of that testing time of 40 years, and then plus each generation of 40 years times seven for Paul’s seven churches for the body of Christ, and then times seven for John’s seven churches for the local churches. So, $40 + (40 \times 7 \times 7) = 2000$. When starting this time element at the year of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection at 35 AD the end of this time element would be 2035. However because between the dates of the Bible and our present dates there are inconsistencies we do not know our actual year dates. So this could be off by 7 years plus or minus.

Arriving at the 35 AD date is simple: Christ was 33 ½ years old when he was cut off; so it was his 34th year. There is no 0 year; BC 1 and AD 1 are the same year so when it was 2 AD Christ was 1 year old. Ergo, when he was in his 34th year it was the year 35 AD. The Jewish form of age was to designate in the year, not after the year was over.

The last generation would be $2035 - 40 = 1995$ and the previous one would be $1995 - 40 = 1955$. These dates are approximations only as our dates are not actually known and the 2035 date could be off because of this. It is just an educated guess of sorts.