

Did all Generations believe that Christ would return during their time?

Question of the week: (Somebody) “made the statement that he will not see Christ return or any of the things leading up to the end times. ...(they said) Every generation says that it will happen in their life time. Could do a study on that subject?”

Let me start by reposting my introductory comment from a similar study we did a little over 4 years ago. **“With so many predictions of doom falling by the way side, many are growing weary of hearing such things. Worse, false interpretations give opportunity to Godless to spread their vial and attack faith. Let us be clear, prophecy from God always comes true, signs from God is always signal His events, and the Lord has and will always use signs, wonders and prophesy to reveal His secrets to mankind. “Despise not prophesyings.” (Just) Because some have put their own interpretations on certain events and gotten them wrong, we are not shy away or grow weary of watching and testifying.... Prophetic Scripture is given to be used and understood by His children. But we are instructed to “Prove all things”. As we look in to these things, let us use God’s discernment to forward His purpose “rightly dividing the word”. After all, signs and wonders have always been one of God’s greatest tools “to the intent that there should be no cause for unbelief among the children of men.” Secondly, we are to “watch and be sober.”**

Revelation 6 : 15-17 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

By the time Tribulation starts, we can take great comfort knowing that the Lord will make it clear that it is He and not man who is causing earths plague and earths destruction. Those who blame others for their lack of belief and rejection of His ways will have nowhere to hide. First off is the statement “Every generation says that it will happen in their life time” valid? Where is the data? I’m confident this is a gross overstatement. Even with the increasing global events, a 2010 poll showed that even amongst U.S. CHRISTIANS, less than half believe Christ will return by 2050! Furthermore, these numbers drop off very sharply when we consider the world view! Lastly, based on the names and times of those who have predicted a date for Christ return, our current generation greatly outnumbers previous generations in these predictions.

“Polls conducted in 2012 across 20 countries found over 14% of people believe the world will end in their lifetime, with percentages ranging from 6% of people in France to 22% in the US and Turkey”

🔗 [Apocalypse now: Poll shows 1 in 7 thinks end of world is near". *The Chicago Tribune*. May 2, 2012. Archived from the original on April 25, 2018.](#)

☐ ["One in Seven \(14%\) Global Citizens Believe End of the World is Coming in Their Lifetime". Ipsos. May 1, 2012. Archived from the original on April 25, 2018.](#)

Jesus Christ's Return to Earth

"By the year 2050, **41%** of **Americans** believe that Jesus Christ definitely (23%) or probably (18%) will have returned to earth. However, a 46%-plurality of the public does not believe Christ will return during the next 40 years. Fully 58% of white evangelical Christians say Christ will return to earth in this period, by far the highest percentage in any religious group. Only about a third of Catholics (32%) and even fewer white mainline Protestants (27%) predict Christ's return to earth by 2050."

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2010/07/14/jesus-christs-return-to-earth/>
July 14, 2010

Will Jesus Return Soon?

Percent of U.S. Christians who say Jesus will return to earth in the next 40 years



Pew Research Center survey, April 21-26, 2010, Q 56aF1. Full question wording: I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not happen in the next 40 years. Please tell me how likely you think it is... that Jesus Christ will return to earth. Do you think this will definitely happen, will probably happen, will probably NOT happen, or will definitely not happen?

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Pew Research Center

When discussing Christ's second coming, can desire or hope play a factor in our beliefs?

[Titus 2:13](#), "...while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Words of Christ regarding His Second Coming?

[Revelation 1 : 3](#) Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.**

[Revelation 3 : 11](#) Behold, **I come quickly**: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

[Revelation 22 : 7](#) Behold, **I come quickly**: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

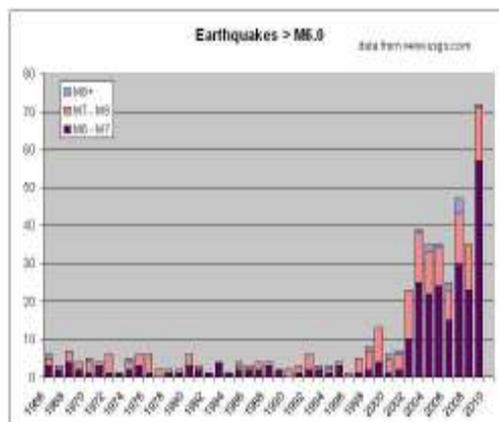
[Revelation 22 : 12](#) And, behold, **I come quickly**; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

[Revelation 22 : 20](#) He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly**. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

What is the meaning “I come quickly” especially in verse 12? Why? Would you change anything in your life if you *knew* we had 5 years to His return?

[Mark 13 :26-33](#) **14** But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: **19** For in those days **shall be affliction**, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.....**26.** And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. Now learn a **parable of the fig tree**; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is **nigh, even at the doors**. Verily I say unto you, that **this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done**. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. **But of that day and that hour knoweth no man**, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither **the Son**, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Does it tell us anything that the Son did not know the day or hour of His Second coming? What is a fig tree represent in the scriptures? In responding a person who makes statement similar to the ones in the question of the week, I would definitely bring their attention to the fact that it was the Christ and then His Christians that who first told the world that we these have global disasters, “tempest,” “famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places.” Now they spin this scenario as their discovery! We need own the argument of “sorrows” or “birth pains”.



[Ether 1 :113-114](#) And then shall my revelations which I have caused to be written by my servant **John**, be unfolded in the eyes of all the people. Remember, **when ye see these things, ye shall know that the time is at hand that they shall be made manifest in very deed**;

What did Apostles Know? Did they teach that Christ would return in their lifetime?

[Acts 1 :5-7](#) For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, **it is not for you to know the times or the seasons**, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

[Luke 21 :11-12,16, 19-21](#) And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. **But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you**, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake... **16** And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.... **19 In your patience possess ye your souls. 20** And when ye shall see **Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21** Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

[II Peter 3:1-14](#) This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the **apostles** of the Lord and Saviour: **Knowing this first**, that there shall **come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming?** for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. **For this they willingly are ignorant of**, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that **one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;** in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what **manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,** wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth**, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, **seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**

[II Thessalonians 2 :1-6](#) Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, and by our gathering together unto him, That **ye be not soon shaken in mind**, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, **nor by letter as from us**, as **that the day of Christ is at hand**. Let no man deceive you by any means: **for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now **letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way**. And **then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the **brightness of his coming**:

[St. Justin Martyr \(c. 100-165\)](#)

DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO

CHAPTER XXXII -- TRYPHO OBJECTING THAT CHRIST IS DESCRIBED AS GLORIOUS BY DANIEL, JUSTIN DISTINGUISHES TWO ADVENTS.

... and he whom Daniel foretells would have dominion for a time, and times, and an half, is even already at the door, about to speak blasphemous and daring things against the Most High. ...

Source: Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1

[St. Irenaeus of Lyons \(c. 130-202\)](#)

Adversus haereses (inter A.D. 180/199) Book V, Chapter 26

John and Daniel have predicted the dissolution and desolation of the Roman Empire, which shall precede the end of the world and the eternal Kingdom of Christ. The Gnostics are refuted, those tools of Satan, who invent another Father different from the Creator.

1. In a still clearer light has John, in the Apocalypse, indicated to the Lord's disciples what shall happen in the last times, and concerning the **ten kings who shall then arise**, among whom the empire which now rules [the earth] shall be partitioned. He teaches us what the ten horns shall be which were seen by Daniel, ...

Source: Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1 Book V, Chapter 30

Moreover, another danger, by no means trifling, shall overtake those who falsely presume that they know the name of **Antichrist**. For if these men assume one [number], when this [Antichrist] shall come having another, they will be easily led away by him, as supposing him not to be the expected one, who must be guarded against.

2. These men, therefore, ought to learn [what really is the state of the case], and go back to the true number of the name, that they be not reckoned among false prophets. But, knowing the

sure number declared by Scripture, that is, six hundred sixty and six, let them await, in the first place, the **division of the kingdom into ten**; then, in the next place, when these kings are reigning, and beginning to set their affairs in order, and advance their kingdom, [let them learn] to acknowledge that he who shall come **claiming the kingdom for himself**, and shall terrify those men of whom we have been speaking, having a name containing the aforesaid number, is truly the abomination of desolation. ...

3. It is therefore more certain, and less hazardous, to await the fulfillment of the prophecy, than to be making surmises, and casting about for any names that may present themselves, inasmuch as many names can be found possessing the number mentioned; and the same question will, after all, remain unsolved. For if there are many names found possessing this number, it will be asked which among them shall the coming man bear. It is not through a want of names containing the number of that name that I say this, but on account of the fear of God, and zeal for the truth: for the name Evanthas (EUAN QAS) contains the required number, but I make no allegation regarding it. Then also **Lateinos (LATEINOS)** has the number six hundred and sixty-six; and it is a very probable [solution], this being the name of the last kingdom [of the four seen by Daniel]. For the **Latins are they who at present bear rule**: ...

Source. Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1

[Tertullian](#) (2nd-3rd Century)

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who **now hinders must hinder, until he be taken out of the way.** "What obstacle is there but the **Roman state**, the falling away of which, by being scattered into **ten kingdoms**, shall introduce Antichrist upon (its own ruins)? "And then shall be revealed the wicked one, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: even him whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish."

Source. Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 3 CHAP. XXXII.

There is also another and a greater necessity for our offering prayer in behalf of the emperors, nay, for the complete stability of the empire, and for Roman interests in general. For we know that a mighty shock is (43) pending over the whole earth--in fact, the very end of all things threatening dreadful woes---is only retarded by the **continued existence of the Roman empire. We have no desire, then, to be overtaken by these dire events; and in praying that their coming may be delayed, we are lending our aid to Rome's duration.**

[St. Augustine of Hippo](#) (345 - 430) Doctor of the Church
City of God, Book XX, Chapter 19

[St. Jerome](#) (c. 340-420) Doctor of the Church Commentary on Daniel, Chapter 7, Verse 8:

St. John Chrysostom (c. 347-407) Doctor of the Church

Homilies on Second Thessalonians
HOMILY IV. 2 THESSALONIANS ii. 6--9.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (c. 315-386) Doctor of the Church

Catechetical Lectures LECTURE XV

Lactantius Firminianous (4th Century)

Divine Institutions (Divinae Institutiones)
Book VII, Chapter 25, OF THE LAST TIMES, AND OF THE CITY OF ROME:

Lactantius Firminianous (4th Century)

Divine Institutions (Divinae Institutiones)
Book VII, Chapter 25, OF THE LAST TIMES, AND OF THE CITY OF ROME:

St. Cyprian of Carthage (3rd Century)

TREATISE XI.
EXHORTATION TO MARTYRDOM, ADDRESSED TO FORTUNATUS.

Hippolytus (3rd Century)

TREATISE ON CHRIST AND ANTICHRIST.

I did not quote the last 8 Church doctors (above) but they all understood what Paul, John and the Lord were telling them. Rome was preventing the 10 Kingdom and thereafter, the Anti-Christ Rule. This would all precede Christ second coming. SO NO, NOT ALL generations believed that the Lord's second coming would take place during their lifetimes!

1 Thessalonians 5 :1-8 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, **that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, **putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.****

So, what was Paul's telling the Thessalonians? Group discussion: What do we tell those who those who Challenge us on the timing of Christ return?