

Mark 13:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

Analysis

This generation shall not pass, till all these things be done—The Greek *hē genea autē* (ἡ γενεὰ αὕτη, 'this generation') has sparked interpretive debate. *Genea* can mean:

1. the people alive when Jesus spoke
2. the Jewish race/ethnicity
3. a 'generation' of the wicked opposed to God, or
4. the generation that sees the signs begin.

The most natural reading refers to Jesus's contemporaries witnessing the temple's destruction (AD 70)—*tauta panta* (ταῦτα πάντα, 'all these things') encompassing verses 5-23, not necessarily verse 26's cosmic coming.

Jesus uses *amēn legō hymin* (ἀμὲν λέγω ὑμῖν, 'truly I say to you'), his solemn oath formula, guaranteeing fulfillment within forty years. The word *genētai* (γένηται, subjunctive of 'to become/happen') emphasizes completed action. This promise validated Jesus as a true prophet (Deuteronomy 18:21-22); Jerusalem's fall in AD 70 vindicated his words and authenticated his deity.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke circa AD 30-33; Jerusalem fell in AD 70—exactly one biblical generation (40 years). Josephus documented the horrors matching Jesus's predictions: famine, false prophets, internecine violence, and temple destruction.

Early Christians escaped to Pella (Eusebius, Church History 3.5), heeding Jesus's warning (vv. 14-16). This literal fulfillment strengthened early Christian confidence in Jesus's remaining promises, including his second coming.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the literal fulfillment of Jesus's prophecy about AD 70 bolster your confidence in unfulfilled prophecies?
2. What does Jesus's precise prediction reveal about his divine foreknowledge and prophetic authority?
3. How should we interpret 'this generation' when reading other gospel passages where Jesus uses the same phrase?

Interlinear Text

ἀμὲν	λέγω	ὕμῖν	ὅτι	οὐ	μὴ	παρέλθῃ	ἡ	γενεὰ
Verily	I say	unto you	that	G3756	G3361	pass	G3588	generation
G281	G3004	G5213	G3754			G3928		G1074

αὕτη	μέχρις	οὗ	πάντα	ταῦτα	γένηται
this	till	G3739	all	these things	be done
G3778	G3360		G3956	G5023	G1096

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:34 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Luke 21:32 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

Mark 9:1 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Matthew 16:28 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Matthew 23:36 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

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