

God, The Father of Time

Ezekiel 12:21-28 (NIV)

“The Word of the Lord came to me (Ezekiel), “Son of man, what is this proverb you have in the land of Israel: **“The days go by and every vision comes to nothing?”** Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: **I am going to put an end to this proverb**, and they will no longer quote it in Israel.’ Say to them, **‘The days are near when every vision will be fulfilled.** For there will be no more false visions or flattering divinations among the people of Israel. But I, the Lord, will speak what I will, and it shall be fulfilled without delay. For in your days, you rebellious people, I will fulfill whatever I say, declares the Sovereign Lord.’”

The Word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, **the Israelites are saying, ‘The vision he sees is for many years from now, and he prophesies about the distant future.’** “Therefore, say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: **None of my words will be delayed any longer; whatever I say will be fulfilled, declares the Sovereign Lord.’**”

To comprehend this scripture better, we must understand that God works with each generation and across generations. Unlike us, God is not locked into linear time.

As an illustration, let’s look at the account of the “Transfiguration” in Matthew Chapter 17.

Matthew 17: 1-8 (NIV)

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. Just then, there appeared before them **Moses and Elijah**, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

The reason we lack a deep understanding of God's dealing with "Generations" is because our practical models of time are all linear. We count minutes, hours, days and years and set them neatly along historical timelines, in order to record history as chronological years, decades, and centuries to millennia.

This model of time, although helpful, fits with a Newtonian understanding of time, but actually limits our understanding of God who is the author of Time. God created time, exists outside of time and interacts with any Spacetime simultaneously. This deeper understanding of the linkage of Space and Time was first defined by Einstein at the beginning of the 20th century.

Psalm 90: 1-10 (NIV)

1. Lord, you have been our dwelling place **throughout all generations.**
2. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
3. You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."
4. **A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.**
5. Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning:
6. In the morning it springs up new, but by evening, it is dry and withered.
7. We are consumed by Your anger and terrified by Your indignation.
8. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.
9. All our days pass away under Your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.
10. **Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures;** yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for **they quickly pass, and we fly away.**

One of the causes and effects of our human perspective of time is due to the brevity of our human life spans. Both the promises and the judgments of God don't easily fit into the limits of our life spans, which causes us to grow weary in waiting for either the promises of God, or His judgments. The promises and the judgments seem to appear far away in some distant future that we will never see during the span of our individual sojourn here on earth.

But what if, just for the sake of looking through a different prism, we saw God, the Creator of Time, through a "Generational" lens, rather than seeing time as strictly linear? What if, simply for the exercise of a thought experiment, we examine our human experience through a "Generational" lens, where the generations fold back on one another, almost like an accordion does. God, who is outside of the confines of time, intersects with all generations simultaneously, because for Him time is not a limiting factor.

I found an article entitled [How Many Human Generations are there from Adam Until Today?](#) The author's research stated that he used his ancestral records to pinpoint a common ancestor within the royal family line of Queen Elizabeth II. He then deduced that there were 77 generations between himself and Noah. According to the biblical record, there were 9 more generations between Adam and Noah, so according to this author's research, there were 86 generations between Adam and himself.

Obviously, folding time along generational lines, isn't something that can be done in neat 30 to 40 year increments, but as we consider that God is outside of time, the experience of the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration makes sense. Peter, James and John witnessed the actual appearances of Moses and Elijah, who had already lived their lives and left this earth. They appeared to Peter, James and John talking "face to face" with Jesus.

Matthew 17:1-8 (NIV)

"After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for

Moses and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” He said. “Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.”

Elijah the prophet, appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration. Elijah had already experienced the most spectacular supernatural exit from the earth, being taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire.

2 Kings 2:9-13 (NIV)

“When they had crossed the Jordan River, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit.” Elijah replied, “You have asked a difficult thing, yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.” As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two. Elisha then picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.”

The second person appearing to the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration was Moses, who had already received a “Shining Cloud” experience with God.

Exodus 19:7-9 (NIV)

“So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord. The Lord said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear Me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.”

In Exodus Chapter 20, God writes the 10 Commandments on tablets of stone. Then Moses comes down from Mt. Sinai with his face still shining from his close encounter with God. Later, when Moses receives the second set of 10 Commandments, we read:

When Moses came down the second time from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. All of the Israelites saw the radiance of Moses' face and were afraid to come near him.

Exodus 34:29-35 (NIV)

“But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai. When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with Him, Moses removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.”

II Corinthians 3: 7- 18 (NIV)

“Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

For what was glorious has no glory now, in comparison with the surpassing glory. **And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!** Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. **But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there

is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

As believers the veil has been lifted from our eyes and our hearts. We are being transformed into the image of Jesus and being empowered to discern the signs of our Time by knowing biblical prophecy and observing world events.

Matthew 24:3-14 (NIV)

"As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."