

July 5, 2020

Dear Family and Friends,

Change is in the air and I think many of us are grieving about our nation. Yesterday, we saw subdued 4th of July celebrations of our National History. What a contrast to the recent raucous, destructive riots with unruly “protestors” destroying historic statues in their attempt to wipe out the History of our Nation!

They say old people think “**their** end times” are “**the** end times”, so maybe I am over-reacting. But as I near the finish line, I believe we are seeing our nation (and the world) going through a momentous change.

It is difficult for many people to admit their age. In the same way, it is often hard to see and admit the age of our institutions, including our country. But we deny reality at our peril. We all have a life span and we go through the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter of the time God has given us here on earth.

The real trick is to know where we are in life and to determine what God would have us to do. I pray the attached thoughts are helpful as you chart the course God has given each of you.

With Gratitude and Thanks to You and our Country!

From Grandpa With Love

Is It Autumn in America?

I have written for many years about the Cycle of Life with its revolving generations (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter), both in our individual lives and also throughout the Centuries and 500 year grand-generations of the Bible. (Summary Time Lines are attached). A few days ago, a younger friend and I were discussing our current situation and how it might fit into the master timeline of History. He commented that my analogy had been drawn from the Bible and wondered if it applied to non-Biblical events.

As I considered his question, I began to look at the history of our own nation. That brought me to “*The Fourth Turning*” written in the 1990’s that looked back at our five centuries and concluded history and individuals walk through the same four generations—with a major crisis bringing a new round of events. E.g. the Revolution (1776), Civil War (1865), WWII (1945) and predicted the period of 2000-2025 would be ripe again. And it is.

As I thought deeper, I realized the New World (including the USA) began 500 years ago (1492) at the same time as the Reformation in my Biblical Time Line! And as I traced the four generations of our national existence it followed the same pattern: Formation/Maturation/Distribution/Completion—except the length of each generation rapidly declined as the country aged. I am sure you could reach other conclusions but this seemed obvious to me.

USA Time Line

<u>Formation</u> <u>Into a Nation</u>	<u>Maturing Into</u> <u>World Leader</u>	<u>Rebuilding</u> <u>The World</u>	<u>Completing</u> <u>Our Role</u>
(Revolution)	(WWI & II)		(Current Crisis)
1500 _____	1800 _____	1950 _____	2025 <u>???</u>
300 Years	150 Years	75 Years	???

Which brings us to the question: “*What season is it in America?*”

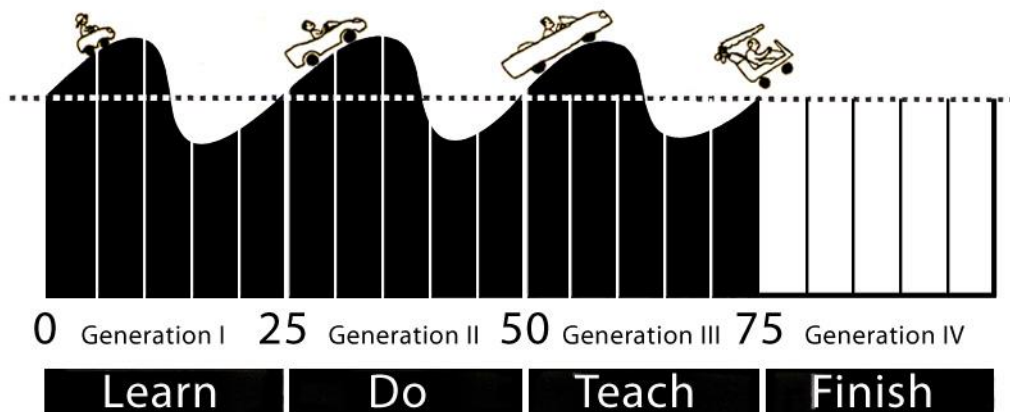
I believe it is Autumn. When I was entering my 70’s, we made the attached graph showing Generation IV as blank and unknown. I sought out older people who had been where I was going and it helped me chart my course. Now, as I approach age 95, the future is once again blank and unknown. We don’t have any individuals to ask, but we do have the Lord and History if we are willing to listen. I discussed the aging of America (and possible actions we might take as individuals) at some length several years ago, in *For Such a Time as This* in Part VI of *Passing It On*, and recent events have solidified my decision. You might read this if you want to think more deeply about these issues. And look at the signs around us. As my daughter said, “When the leaves turn and fall, it is Autumn.”

It is a wise person (and Nation) who knows when Winter is approaching and prepares accordingly. I pray our country will be who God created us to be for this time in History—and that we will each seek and follow Him as we transition to our next national chapter of life. Perhaps it will help to remember the promise God made to the Jewish nation as they suffered through their great crisis and return around 500-600 B.C. (Jeremiah (29:11 NIV).

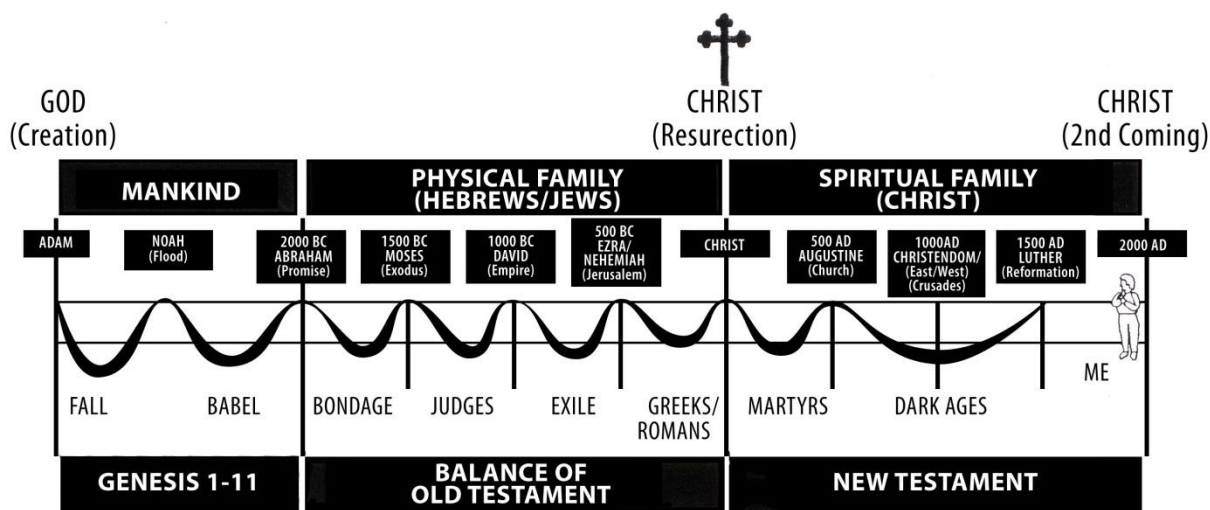
***“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord,
‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’”.***

From Grandpa With Love

Our Time Line



The Bible Time Line



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