

# Home Group Questions

the week of 5/5/2019

Daniel 9:19-27; Matthew 24:1-46

## DANIEL – BACK TO THE FUTURE

### GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on “The Ordinary Superheroes of the Old Testament”. This week our study centered on Daniel who is best known for surviving a lion’s den by the providence of God. However, we will be focusing on an amazing prophecy that Daniel gave which provided Jews in Exile with great hope that God’s promises were still in effect for Israel.

### LOOKING IN THE WORD...

**1. Read Daniel 9:19-27.** Daniel prays to God for help and the Lord answers by sending the archangel Gabriel to deliver a very precise prophecy that points to the coming of the Messiah, and the prediction of a period of seven years (the Great Tribulation) during the end times. This was an encouraging prophecy for the Jews in exile because it confirmed that God had not forgotten His promises that He made to the nation of Israel.

**2. Read Matthew 24:1-46.** Pastor Mel preached on this passage this past Sunday and it is considered the “crown jewel” passage of understanding biblical prophecy. Scripture teaches that we will not know the exact time and date of Jesus’ return. The chart below lays out the four major views of the rapture and the Great Tribulation. Talk about Matthew 24 and some of the amazing truths found in the passage, and use the chart as a guide that represents the views held by various people at Riverview, as well as the broader evangelical community:

**3. Knowing that Jesus is returning** is an important truth in the Christian faith. Does this truth impact your walk with Christ on a daily basis? Why or why not? How do you think it should impact our lives as we seek to live for the Lord?

**4. Read Matthew 25:1-13.** After reading this parable, relate it to the words of Jesus in John 14:1-14. How does John 14 tie into the marriage ceremony in the Jewish faith? The Bride of Christ is the church, and the words of Jesus become even more powerful when seen in the context of a Jewish wedding, as described below:

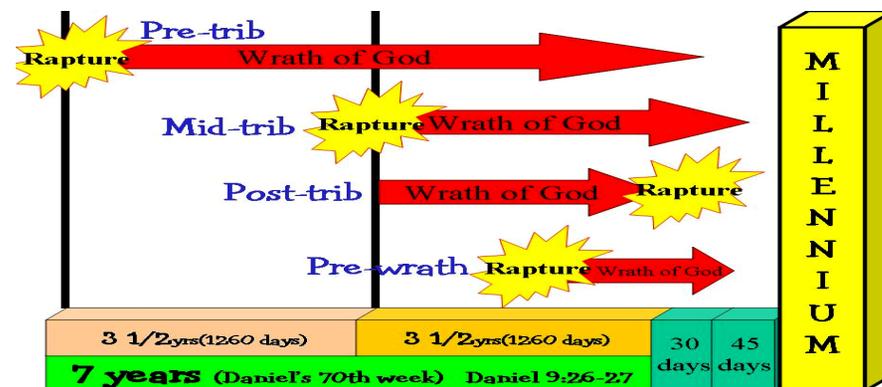
- Stages of a Jewish wedding in New Testament times:

**A) Engagement** - occurred long before the actual wedding. Generally, the fathers who were giving their children in marriage made an official contract with each other.

**B) Betrothal** - an official ceremony in which the couple came together to make binding vows and were then considered officially married.

**C) Marriage Feast** - the bridegroom returned from making preparations for his bride. He would arrive at the bride’s house where the bride and all the bridesmaids would be waiting for him. Then they would all go through the village at night with torches in a celebration of singing, talking, and feasting unequalled by any other social event.

**5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 & 2 Thess. 2:1-12.** As a Home Group, discuss these passages and how they relate to the future and our attitudes about the second coming of Christ...Remember: IT’S OK TO BELIEVE DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE RAPTURE. DON’T GET INTO DIVISIVE ARGUMENTS ABOUT THESE THINGS BUT CONTINUE TO STUDY SCRIPTURE.



### MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that Jesus’ return would encourage you in your walk with Christ and motivate you to be a light for Him in a world that is lost.