

4. Perhaps the most speculated-about event in the Bible is when and how Jesus will return. Over the last 2000 years various people have unsuccessfully predicted that it would happen in their lifetime. How does **2 Peter 3:3-9** address the question of why it's taking so long for Jesus to return?

How could **2 Timothy 2:24-26** relate to the delay in Jesus' return?

5. Even though we don't know for sure when Jesus will return, the fact that He will return sometime should affect how we live. What kind of lifestyle does **2 Peter 3:10-14** encourage us to live in light of Jesus' return?

Are there any motivations you see in this passage for living out this lifestyle?

What could be some of the benefits to yourself and others for living this kind of life?

Taking It home

6. Is there any change you sense God is asking you to make in light of Jesus' return?

7. Did your understanding of prophecy and its role in our lives grow or change from the sermon or homework? If so, how?

INTERPRETING PROPHECY, PART 1

Daniel 7-9

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT PROPHECY

1. IT'S A BIG PART OF THE _____

2. IT'S IMPORTANT TO AVOID THE _____

HOW TO INTERPRET PROPHECY

1. EXPERIENCE THE _____ OF PROPHECY

Daniel 7:1-14, 8:20-22

2. BE FLEXIBLE ON THE _____ OF PROPHECY

Revelation 20:1-3

"I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding."

Daniel 8:27

3. UNDERSTAND THE _____ OF PROPHECY

BEFORE: to give you _____ and _____

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words." 1

Thessalonians 4:16-18

AFTER: to show you God was _____ the whole time

"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He." John 13:18-19

Daniel 1-6: God is in control of your _____ situation

Daniel 7-12: God is in control of your _____ situations

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of March 14, 2010

- Sunday: Daniel 10:1-11
- Monday: Daniel 10:12-11:1
- Tuesday: Daniel 11:2-13
- Wednesday: Daniel 11:14-24
- Thursday: Daniel 11:25-35
- Friday: Daniel 11:36-45
- Saturday: Daniel 12

Note: The goal of this week's sermon was to provide us with guidelines and cautions as we look at the big picture of biblical prophecy. It didn't attempt to answer all the questions about prophecy because nobody has all those answers. Keep this in mind as you work on this homework and participate in your Growth Group.

Quick Review: Looking back over your sermon notes from this week, what was most challenging, helpful, or interesting to you?

My Story

1. Some people get really excited talking about prophecy while others know very little about it. Which of these statements best describes your attitude related to prophecy, end times and the second coming of Jesus?

- I don't know much about any of it
- I'm very interested in it and have studied it a lot
(continued on other side)

- I find it confusing
- I'm not very interested in it
- I'd like to know more
- I find it too theoretical and not practical enough
- What I know about it came from reading the *Left Behind* series
- Other:

2. If you could know certain things about your future (like when you're going to die, whom you will marry, major illnesses you'll have, etc.) would you want to know that information? What would be some benefits and drawbacks from knowing that information?

Digging Deeper

3. There are a variety of opinions about many of the as yet unfulfilled prophecies in the Bible. However, there are a number of future events that are clearly spelled out in Scripture even if we don't understand all the details about them. Read the following passages and identify the events yet to happen in each one.

Revelation 21:1-4

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2 Corinthians 5:10

Does reading these passages bring you a sense of hope, fear, a desire to change, or something else?

What do you look forward to the most from these passages?