

# **Growth Group Questions**

*Last Sunday of the Church Year, November 26, 2023*

## **Introduction**

This is the last Sunday of the church year. If you were putting together themes for the year. What would you set as the final focus of worship for the year? What would you have started with? (*See, there's a reason we worship the way we do!*)

## **Into the Word** – Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

1. I referenced this text two weeks ago when talking about Judgment Day. God the Father is described as the “Ancient of Days.” Discuss what these parts of the description mean.
  - Ancient of Days (only time this phrase is used in Scripture)
  - Clothing white as snow / hair white like wool
  - Throne (& wheels) blazing like fire / river of fire flowing
  - Thousands attending him
  - Books opened (Ps 69:28, Rev 20:12)
2. Verses 11 and 12 are cut out because of the amount of explanation that would be needed to define the “little horn.” There was a series of four beasts representing four world empires. This little horn grows out of the fourth beast (Rome), even displacing some of the ten horns already there. Long story short, this beast and its horn are slain and cast into the fire in the verses we skip. Judgment on Judgment day and Christ’s return.
3. Verses 13-14 bring Jesus’ into Daniel’s vision. Discuss these descriptions in the vision and what they mean.
  - One “like a son of man”
  - Coming with the clouds of heaven
  - Given all authority, glory, and sovereign power
  - All worship him
  - Everlasting dominion and kingdom

## **Into the Word** – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

4. When Paul says that believers who have died are sleeping, what is his point? Are the dead in faith in heaven now or not? (refer to Luke 23:43)
5. Use verses 16-17 to describe the timeline of judgment day. What happens in what order?
6. Daniel gives us a glimpse into the war of the angels all around us. Michael is named as archangel in Daniel 10 & 12, leads the angelic armies in Revelation 12 and is described as confronting the devil in Jude 1:9. We don’t know anything else. We only know one other angel’s name. Who is that?

## **Into the Word** – Matthew 25:31-46

7. This section of Matthew 25 concludes Jesus’ teachings on the last days. This long text has a very short and simple point. What will Jesus do on Judgment Day?
8. Why is it significant that the believers don’t even realize they did the things Jesus points to as evidence of their fitness for heaven?
9. My “Greek thought of the week” on social media highlighted the timeframe given in the last verse. How does Jesus destroy the idea of hell as a place with temporary suffering followed by annihilation (ceasing to exist)?

## **Closing Prayer**

(Last hymn verse of the year from “It Is Well with My Soul”)  
*“And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump(et) shall resound, and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul.”*

**Lord, quickly come and bring us home. Amen.**