

5. Imagine you were alive during Daniel’s time and heard the following prophecy about the kingdom of God: **Daniel 2:44-45**. How would have pictured the kingdom of God?

6. We often assume that the kingdom of God means “heaven,” which is only partially true. Jesus spent a lot of time helping people understand what the Kingdom of God was *really* like. What surprises about the kingdom of God do you find in these verses?

**Mark 1:14-15**

**Matthew 5:3**

**Matthew 18:1-4**

**Matthew 21:31**

**Mark 4:30-32**

**Luke 17:20-21**

Jesus says that you can experience the kingdom of God here on earth and completely in heaven. What’s the significance of this for you?

**Taking It Home**

7. How do you think God’s “surprising” fulfillments of prophecy should affect your posture toward prophecies that are still not fulfilled?

8. With Easter approaching, who are some people you would like to “be witnesses” to? Spend time praying with your group for these people.

**INTERPRETING PROPHECY, PART 2**

Daniel 10-12

**3 WAYS GOD FULFILLS PROPHECY**

**1. GOD FULFILLS PROPHECY IN A \_\_\_\_\_ WAY**

→BE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ IN GOD

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Kingdoms
Gold head	Lion		Babylon
Silver chest/arms	Bear	Ram	Media and Persia
Bronze belly/thighs	Leopard	Goat	Greece
Iron legs/feet	Terrifying Beast		Rome
Rock	Son of Man		Kingdom of God

Another example: Daniel 11

**2. GOD FULFILLS PROPHECY IN A \_\_\_\_\_ WAY**

→ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE THAN ONE \_\_\_\_\_

*“His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.” Daniel 11:31*

*“When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” Mark 13:14*

### 3. GOD FULFILLS PROPHECY IN A \_\_\_\_\_ WAY

→ FOCUS ON BEING \_\_\_\_\_

**ROCK:** *"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock..."* Daniel 2:44–45a

**SON OF MAN:** *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." Daniel 7:13–14*

**JESUS:** *So when [the disciples] met together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:6–8*

### Growth Group Homework

For the Week of March 21, 2010

**Quick Review:** Take a moment to review your sermon notes. What caught your attention the most?

#### My Story

1. Have you ever heard about a person or talked to a person on the phone before meeting them, and then been surprised by how they looked when you actually did meet them? Share a story about this.

#### Digging Deeper

2. The theme for this week's Growth Group homework is how God fulfills prophecy in surprising ways. Imagine you were alive during Daniel's time and heard the following prophecy about the son of man: **Daniel 7:11-14**. What would you have guessed this "son of man" would have been like?
3. Jesus identified himself as the Son of Man; what does He say about the Son of Man in the following verses that may have surprised people?

**Matthew 8:20**

**Mark 10:45**

**Matthew 20:17-19**

Given Daniel's prophecy, do you think it's understandable that people questioned whether Jesus was the Son of Man? Why or why not?

4. The most surprising thing was the way Jesus became victorious. It was counter-intuitive and upside-down. What does **Philippians 2:5-11** say about this?

What can you learn from Jesus' example about experiencing Godly victory in your home, city, country, and world?