

Daniel 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it.

Analysis

Though Ptolemy IV won at Raphia, he didn't consolidate victory—his 'heart was lifted up' in pride rather than strategic advantage. This character detail, predicted centuries before, demonstrates God's knowledge of hearts and circumstances.

Historical Context

Daniel chapter 11 contains some of Scripture's most detailed predictive prophecy, written c. 536 BC and fulfilled with remarkable precision 200-160 BC during Ptolemaic-Seleucid conflicts. The prophecies served multiple purposes: encouraging Jewish exiles that God controls history, providing roadmap for future generations facing Hellenistic pressures, and typologically pointing to end-times Antichrist. Reformed theology sees dual fulfillment: near historical events (Antiochus Epiphanes) typifying far eschatological realities (final Antichrist). This pattern validates divine inspiration—only God knows future details with such precision. For believers under persecution, these prophecies demonstrated that tyrannical opposition is temporary, God's sovereignty absolute, and ultimate victory certain. The historical fulfillment encourages trust that eschatological promises will similarly fulfill exactly as prophesied.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the remarkable precision of fulfilled prophecy strengthen faith in Scripture's divine origin?
2. What does the dual fulfillment pattern (historical Antiochus typifying eschatological Antichrist) teach about biblical prophecy's layered meaning?
3. How should these prophecies encourage believers facing persecution or opposition today?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| וְנִשָּׂא אֶל | הַקְהָל וְ | יָרֶם וְ | לִבּוֹ וְ |
| And when he hath taken away | the multitude | shall be lifted up | his heart |
| H5375 | H1995 | H7311 | H3824 |
| וְהִפֹּךְ יֵל | רַבָּא וְ | לֹא אֶל | יִעֲזֹז: |
| and he shall cast down | many ten thousands | H3808 | but he shall not be strengthened |
| H5307 | H7239 | | H5810 |

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