

Daniel 11:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.

Analysis

Antiochus III returned after years with larger army, defeating Ptolemy V at Panion (198 BC). This secured Seleucid control over Judea, shifting Jewish territory from Ptolemaic to Seleucid dominance—a major historical shift affecting Jewish life and setting stage for Antiochus IV's later persecution.

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 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

בְּמַה וְיַהְעַם יַעֲשֵׂב
shall return a multitude
H7225 H1995

בְּבָבָן מִן כִּי כִּי
and with much than the former
H7227 H4480 H7223

וְבָרָךְ וְשָׁגֵד וְלִבְנֵי אָרֶב
and shall certainly and shall certainly army with a great
H935 H935 H2428 H1419

בְּבָבָן
and with much
H7227

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 4:16 (Parallel theme): Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

Daniel 12:7 (Parallel theme): And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

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