

Daniel 11:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him.

Analysis

Antiochus III turned to coastal regions and islands (Asia Minor, Greece) but was defeated by Romans at Magnesia (190 BC). The 'prince' stopping his reproach was Roman consul Lucius Scipio. Rome's entrance into eastern Mediterranean politics would ultimately lead to Seleucid decline.

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

יבְּ יְמִים	לִלְכֵד	לְאַיִם	פָּנִים	בְּשָׁבֵב	לְ
he shall cause it to turn	his face	unto the isles	and shall take	many	
H7725	H6440	H339	H3920	H7227	
וְהַשֵּׁב יְתָ	בָּאָרֶץ	חִרְפָּת	וְ		וְ
offered by him to cease	but a prince	for his own behalf shall cause the reproach			H0
H7673	H7101	H2781			
בְּלֹת	חִרְפָּת	וְ	בְּשָׁבֵב	לְ	
without	for his own behalf shall cause the reproach	he shall cause it to turn			H0
H1115	H2781	H7725			

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 12:14 (Parallel theme): Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him.

Jeremiah 2:10 (Parallel theme): For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing.

Jeremiah 31:10 (Parallel theme): Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

Zephaniah 2:11 (Parallel theme): The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen.

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