

Daniel 11:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

Analysis

Seleucus IV Philopator (187-175 BC) sent his treasurer Heliodorus to plunder Jerusalem's temple to raise taxes ('a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom'). Heliodorus later assassinated Seleucus. The prophecy's detail remains stunning—even tax policies predicted centuries beforehand.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְעָמַד	עַל	כֵּן	מַעֲבִיר	שׁוֹגֵשׁ	הַדָּר
Then shall stand up	in his estate	a raiser	of taxes	in the glory	
H5975	H5921	H3653	H5674	H5065	H1925
מֶלֶךְ וְ	וּבְיָמָיו	אֲחֵדִים	יִשָּׁבֵר	וְלֹא	
of the kingdom	days	but within few	he shall be destroyed		
H4438	H3117	H259	H7665		H3808
בְּאַף	וְלֹא	בְּמִלְחָמָה:			
neither in anger		nor in battle			
H639	H3808	H4421			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 60:17 (Parallel theme): For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness.

