

Daniel 11:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Analysis

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 BC) enters the prophecy—the climactic villain foreshadowing Antichrist. Called 'vile person' to whom royal honor wasn't given (he usurped throne from rightful heir), he obtained kingdom through 'flatteries' (political manipulation). His reign would bring unprecedented persecution of Jews.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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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|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| וְעָמְדוּ | עַל | כְּנֹחַ | נִבְזֵה | וְלֹא |
| shall stand up | H5975 | And in his estate | a vile person | H3808 |
| | | H3653 | H959 | |
| וְלֹא | יָתֵּן | וְלֹא | וְלֹא | וְלֹא |
| to whom they shall not give | H5414 | the honour | of the kingdom | but he shall come |
| | | H5921 | H1935 | H4438 |
| | | | | H935 |
| בְּשָׁלוֹם | וְיָקִימוּ | מִלְכוּת | בְּחִלְקֵי לִקְוֹת: | |
| in peaceably | and obtain | of the kingdom | by flatteries | |
| H7962 | H2388 | H4438 | H2519 | |

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 11:34 (Parallel theme): Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.

Psalms 55:21 (Parallel theme): The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

Daniel 8:25 (Peace): And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

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