

Daniel 11:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully:
for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small
people.

Analysis

Antiochus's deceptive practices—making leagues and working deceitfully—characterized his reign. Starting with few supporters, he became strong through manipulation. This pattern of deceit prefigures Antichrist's tactics (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וּמִן H4480	הַתְּחִבָּר וְת H2266	אֵל יוֹ H413	יַעֲשֶׂה ה H6213	מְרִמָּה ה H4820
And after the league		made with him he shall work	deceitfully	
וְעָלָה ה H5927	וְיָצַח ה H6105	בְּמַעַט H4592	גוֹיִם H1471	
for he shall come up	and shall become strong	with a small	people	

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 8:25 (Parallel theme): 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.