

Daniel 11:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him.

Analysis

Antiochus's first Egyptian campaign (170 BC) against Ptolemy VI fulfilled this. Despite Egypt's large forces, Antiochus succeeded initially through superior tactics and Ptolemy's advisors' treachery ('forecast devices against him'). The prophecy's accuracy continues unbroken.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיַּעַר	כֹּחַ וְ	וּלְבָב וְ	עַל	וְיָמָּ לָךְ	הַנֶּגֶב		
And he shall stir up	his power	and his courage	H5921	against the king	of the south		
H5782	H3581	H3824		H4428	H5045		
בְּחֵיל	גָּד וְ	וְיָמָּ לָךְ	הַנֶּגֶב	יִתְגַּדֵּל	לְמִלְחָמָה ה		
army	great	against the king	of the south	shall be stirred up	to battle		
H2428	H1419	H4428	H5045	H1624	H4421		
בְּחֵיל	גָּד וְ	וְעֶז וּמִ	עַד	מְאֹד ד	וְלֹא א	יַעֲמֹד ד	כִּי
army	great	and mighty	H5704	with a very	H3808	but he shall not stand	H3588
H2428	H1419	H6099		H3966		H5975	
וַיִּחְשָׁב וְ		מִחְשָׁבוֹת: עַל יו					
for they shall forecast		devices					
H2803		H4284					

