

Daniel 11:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

Analysis

Antiochus's second Egyptian campaign (168 BC) was less successful than the first—Roman intervention forced his withdrawal. The phrase 'it shall not be as the former' accurately predicts different outcome. Rome's growing power limited Seleucid expansion.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

לְמוֹעַד	יֵשׁ וְב	וְבֹא	בְּנֶגֶב	וְלֹא	תְהִי ה
At the time appointed	he shall return	and come	toward the south	H3808	H1961
H4150	H7725	H935	H5045		
כְּרִאשׁוֹ ה	וְכַאֲחֻרְוֹנָה:				
but it shall not be as the former	or as the latter				
H7223	H314				