

Daniel 11:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.

Analysis

The 'ships of Chittim' refers to Roman vessels. Popilius Laenas, Roman envoy, famously drew circle around Antiochus and demanded answer before he stepped out—humiliating the king and forcing Egyptian withdrawal. Returning in rage, Antiochus vented fury on Jerusalem and Jews faithful to covenant, rewarding apostate Hellenizers.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וְכָאוּ shall come H935	בּוֹ H0	צִיִּים For the ships H6716	כְּתִיִּים of Chittim H3794	וְנִכָּא ה against him therefore he shall be grieved H3512	
וְשָׁב and return H7725	וְזָעַם and have indignation H2194	עַל H5921	בְּרִית covenant H1285	קֹדֶשׁ: against the holy H6944	וְעָשָׂה ה so shall he do H6213
וְשָׁב and return H7725	וְיָבִין and have intelligence H995	עַל H5921	עִזְבֵּי י with them that forsake H5800	בְּרִית covenant H1285	
קֹדֶשׁ: against the holy H6944					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 10:4 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

Numbers 24:24 (Parallel theme): And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever.

Isaiah 23:12 (Parallel theme): And he said, Thou shalt no more rejoice, O thou oppressed virgin, daughter of Zidon: arise, pass over to Chittim; there also shalt thou have no rest.

Isaiah 23:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them.

Jeremiah 2:10 (Parallel theme): For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing.

Daniel 11:28 (Covenant): Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.