

Daniel 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Analysis

This verse predicts the Abomination of Desolation (167 BC)—Antiochus's forces desecrated the temple, stopped daily sacrifices, and erected Zeus altar/statue on the altar of burnt offering. This horrific sacrilege triggered the Maccabean revolt. Jesus referenced this event as type of end-times abomination (Matthew 24:15).

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וְזֶרַע יָמָם	מָמָה בּוֹ	יָעִמּוּ דָּו	וְחָלָל וְ	הַמִּקְדָּשׁ שׁ
And arms	H4480	shall stand	on his part and they shall pollute	the sanctuary
H2220		H5975	H2490	H4720
הַמָּעוֹז	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵוֹ	הַיּוֹמָה יָד	וְנָתַנּוּ וְ	
of strength	and shall take away	the daily	sacrifice and they shall place	
H4581	H5493	H8548	H5414	
הַשִּׁקּוּץ וְ	מְשַׁמָּה:			
the abomination	that maketh desolate			
H8251	H8074			

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 12:11 (Sacrifice): And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Daniel 9:27 (Sacrifice): And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Matthew 24:15 (Parallel theme): When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Mark 13:14 (Parallel theme): But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: