

Daniel 11:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

Analysis

Instead of traditional gods, Antiochus honored 'the god of forces' (likely Zeus or militarism itself) with lavish gifts. His religious manipulations and innovations, driven by political ambitions, brought unprecedented persecution. This prefigures Antichrist's false religion and self-worship.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְלֹאֵל וֹהֵ	מְעַזֵּי יָם	עַל	כֵּן וְ	יִכְבֹּד	וְלֹאֵל וֹהֵ
and a god	of forces	H5921	But in his estate	not shall he honour	and a god
H433	H4581		H3653	H3513	H433
אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	יָדָעַהוּ	אֲבֹתָיו	יִכְבֹּד	בְּזָהָב
H834	H3808	knew	whom his fathers	not shall he honour	with gold
		H3045	H1	H3513	H2091
וּבַכֶּסֶף	וּבְאֲבָנִים	יְקָרִים	וּבְחִמְדוֹת:		
and silver	stones	and with precious	H2530		
H3701	H68	H3368			

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