

Daniel 11:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

Analysis

Antiochus attacked strong fortifications with help of his chosen god (Zeus), rewarding followers with land and power. His military successes and political rewards to loyalists characterized his regime. Yet despite temporary success, his end approaches—God's sovereignty limits tyrants' duration.

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

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

וְעַשׂ הַמְבָאָר יְהוָה עַל וְעַל				
Thus shall he do	holds	in the most strong	H5973	god
H6213	H4013	H4581		H433

רָאשָׁה	יְהִי	הַרְבֵּה	וְרָאשָׁה
H834	whom he shall acknowledge	and increase	with glory

בְּמַחְיִרִים יְסַלֵּק וְהַמְשִׁילִים בְּרַבּ יָם תְּאַדֵּם הַיְמִינָה וְהַמְשִׁילִים
and he shall cause them to rule over many the land and shall divide for gain
H4910 H7227 H127 H2505 H4242