

Daniel 8:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

Analysis

The little horn's pride reaches its zenith: "he magnified himself even to the prince of the host." This "prince of the host" is variously interpreted as the high priest, the angel Michael (referenced in 10:21, 12:1), or ultimately God Himself. Antiochus's actions demonstrated all three: he deposed legitimate high priests, opposed angelic protection of Israel, and blasphemed Yahweh by claiming divine status ("Epiphanes"—God manifest).

"By him the daily sacrifice was taken away" describes the historical cessation of temple worship. The Hebrew tamid (תָּמִיד, "daily") refers to the perpetual burnt offering (Exodus 29:38-42), central to covenant worship. Antiochus forbade this sacrifice, desecrating the temple in 167 BC. "The place of his sanctuary was cast down" means the temple's defilement—not physical destruction but religious pollution through pagan sacrifice and prostitution introduced into holy precincts.

This attack on worship prefigures the Antichrist's future actions (2 Thessalonians 2:4, Revelation 13) and points backward to earlier Babylonian temple destruction. Yet each interruption of worship was temporary—God always restored His people. Ultimately, Christ's sacrifice superseded all temple rituals, and His body became the true temple. Antiochus could stop animal sacrifices, but he couldn't prevent Christ's once-for-all atonement that eternally satisfies divine justice.

Historical Context

On the 15th of Kislev, 167 BC (1 Maccabees 1:54), Antiochus erected a "desolating sacrilege" (likely a Zeus altar or image) in the Jerusalem temple and sacrificed pigs—unclean animals—on God's altar. This "abomination of desolation" (verse 31) represented total desecration. Daily sacrifices ceased for three years until Judas Maccabeus cleansed and rededicated the temple (December 164 BC), commemorated in Hanukkah. This 1,150-day period closely matches the 2,300 evenings/mornings of verse 14.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Antiochus's stopping of daily worship warn us that Satan's attacks often target regular spiritual disciplines and corporate worship?
2. What does God's restoration of worship after Antiochus teach us about His commitment to His glory and people's spiritual life?
3. In what ways does Christ's once-for-all sacrifice provide security that no earthly power can ultimately interrupt our access to God?

Interlinear Text

וְעַד H5704	שָׁר H8269	הַצֶּבֶא H6635	הִגְדִּיל H1431	וַיִּמְאֶז H4480
	himself even to the prince	of the host	Yea he magnified	
הָרִים H7311	הַתָּמִיד H8548	וַהֲשִׁלָּהּ H7993	מָכֹון H4349	
sacrifice was taken away	and by him the daily	was cast down	and the place	
מִקְדָּשׁוֹ H4720				
of his sanctuary				

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.

Ezekiel 46:14 (Sacrifice): And thou shalt prepare a meat offering for it every morning, the sixth part of an ephah, and the third part of an hin of oil, to temper with the fine flour; a meat offering continually by a perpetual ordinance unto the LORD.

Daniel 11:31 (Sacrifice): 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.

Daniel 8:25 (Parallel theme): And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Revelation 17:14 (Parallel theme): These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Isaiah 37:23 (Parallel theme): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org