

Daniel 8:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The phrase "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand" describes Antiochus's use of deception and manipulation. "Policy" (Hebrew: sekhel, שְׁכֵל) means intelligence or cunning; "craft" (Hebrew: mirmah, מִרְמָה) means deceit or treachery. He succeeded through lies, false promises, and political intrigue. This warns that intelligence divorced from righteousness produces clever wickedness rather than wise governance.

"He shall magnify himself in his heart" reveals pride's root. External persecution stems from internal arrogance—Antiochus's attacks on God's people originated in self-exaltation. The title "Epiphanes" (God Manifest) epitomized this blasphemy. "By peace shall destroy many" indicates he accomplished some destruction through false diplomacy—offering peace while planning treachery. This prefigures the Antichrist who will deceive through false peace promises (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

"He shall also stand up against the Prince of princes" identifies his ultimate opponent—not merely human kings but God Himself. Attacking God's people means attacking God. "But he shall be broken without hand" promises divine judgment independent of human agency. No human defeated Antiochus militarily; disease struck him down. This teaches that God reserves final judgment for

Himself. While He uses human instruments sometimes, He can judge directly, demonstrating that vengeance belongs to Him alone.

Historical Context

Antiochus used treachery extensively—made peace treaties then violated them, promised religious freedom then imposed persecution, claimed to honor Jewish high priesthood then sold it to highest bidder. He attacked Jerusalem during peace negotiations, massacring inhabitants. His pride was legendary—demanded worship as deity, issued coins claiming divinity. Yet divine judgment struck suddenly—2 Maccabees 9 describes his agonizing death from intestinal disease, writhing in pain, body rotting, abandoned by his army. "Broken without hand" fulfilled literally.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Antiochus's use of craft and treachery warn believers about trusting worldly promises made by those opposing faith?
2. What does pride preceding persecution teach us about the spiritual roots of hostility toward God's people?
3. In what ways does divine judgment 'without hand' (independent of human agency) demonstrate God's sovereignty and justice?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל יְמֵה מְרֻמָּה יָד יְמֵה
H5921 And through his policy to prosper also he shall cause craft hand
H7922 H6743 H4820 H3027

וְבַלְבָב יְמֵה וְבַשְׁלִיחָה יְמֵה
himself in his heart and he shall magnify and by peace shall destroy many
H3824 H1431 H7962 H7843 H7227

וְבָא פָּס יְמֵה דָּעַת
H5921 against the Prince against the Prince he shall also stand up without
H8269 H8269 H5975 H657

יְמֵה תְּשִׁבַּר
hand but he shall be broken
H3027 H7665

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 8:11 (Parallel theme): 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.

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.

Job 34:20 (Parallel theme): In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand.