

# Daniel 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

## Analysis

Chapter 4 uniquely presents Nebuchadnezzar's first-person testimony: 'Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth.' This royal proclamation format was common in ancient Near Eastern inscriptions. The universal address ('all people, nations, languages') emphasizes the message's global significance. The greeting 'Peace be multiplied unto you' expresses genuine goodwill from one who experienced God's humbling power. This chapter represents the pagan king's conversion testimony—arrogance brought low, then restoration through acknowledging God's sovereignty.

## Historical Context

Babylonian royal inscriptions typically began with king's name, titles, and greeting to subjects. Nebuchadnezzar's historical inscriptions (found in archaeological discoveries) celebrate military conquests and building projects, attributing success to Marduk. This biblical text subverts that pattern—the king now attributes events to Yahweh and testifies to personal humiliation rather than triumph. The proclamation's form follows ancient conventions while revolutionizing the content with monotheistic theology.

## Related Passages

## **Romans 2:1 – Judging others**

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## Study Questions

1. How does a pagan king's testimony to God's sovereignty carry unique evangelistic power with unbelievers?
2. What does Nebuchadnezzar's transformation from pride to humility teach about genuine conversion involving broken self-sufficiency?

## Interlinear Text

דְּ	לְשׁוֹנִי	אָמִי	עַמְמִי	אֶבֶל	מֶלֶךְ	אֶבֶל	נְבוּכְדְּנָצֶר	רָ
Nebuchadnezzar	the king	in all	people	nations	and languages			H1768
H5020	H4430	H3606	H5972	H524	H3961			

## Additional Cross-References

**Daniel 6:25** (Kingdom): Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

**Daniel 3:4** (Parallel theme): Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages.

**Ephesians 1:2** (Peace): Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Chronicles 12:18** (Peace): Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse;

peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

**1 Peter 1:2** (Peace): Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

**Ezra 4:17** (Kingdom): Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and unto the rest beyond the river, Peace, and at such a time.

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