

Daniel 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar declares his purpose: 'I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.' The phrase 'signs and wonders' (Aramaic: *atha v'timhaya*) describes miraculous divine interventions demonstrating God's power. 'The high God' acknowledges supreme divine authority. Critically, these signs were 'toward me'—personal experience, not abstract theology. The king testifies from direct encounter with God's sovereignty. This models effective witness: sharing personal experience of God's transformative work rather than merely asserting doctrines.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern royal inscriptions documented kings' accomplishments and divine favor. Nebuchadnezzar subverts this genre—instead of boasting of conquest, he testifies to God's humbling work in his life. The term 'signs and wonders' appears in Exodus describing God's acts against Egypt (Exodus 7:3), now applied to God's work on a Gentile king. This universalizes God's sovereign power—He works 'signs and wonders' among all peoples, not just Israel.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does personal testimony of God's work in our lives carry persuasive power beyond doctrinal arguments?
2. What does the king's willingness to publicly share his humiliation teach about authentic testimony requiring vulnerability?

Interlinear Text

אֲתִיָּא	וְתִמְהִי א	דַּי	עָבַד	עִמִּי	אֱלֹהֵ א	עָלַי א
the signs	and wonders	H1768	hath wrought	toward	God	that the high
H852	H8540		H5648	H5974	H426	H5943
רָשָׁפְר	קָדַמִּי	לְהַחֲיֶה:				
it good	I thought	to shew				
H8232	H6925	H2324				

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 3:26 (References God): Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

Psalms 66:16 (References God): Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.