

# Daniel 4:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

## Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar's concluding testimony represents the chapter's theological climax: "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven." The threefold affirmation—"praise" (meshabbeach, מְשַׁבֵּחַ, to commend), "extol" (merommem, מְרַמֵּם, to lift up or magnify), and "honour" (mehadar, מְהַדָּר, to glorify)—emphasizes comprehensive worship using multiple Hebrew terms for exaltation. This contrasts starkly with his earlier self-exaltation (v. 30), demonstrating complete transformation from pride to humility.

The title "King of heaven" (Malka shemaya, מֶלֶךְ שָׁמַיִם) acknowledges God's absolute sovereignty over earthly rulers. The phrase "all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment" confesses divine perfection in both action ("works are truth") and governance ("ways judgment"). This represents mature theological understanding—God's deeds align perfectly with reality, and His governance reflects perfect justice. Nebuchadnezzar affirms what he previously resisted: God's right to rule and His perfect wisdom in exercising sovereignty.

The concluding statement "those that walk in pride he is able to abase" represents personal testimony from experience. The word "abase" (hashpilah, הִשְׁפִּילָה, to bring low or humble) describes precisely what Nebuchadnezzar experienced. His testimony warns others against pride while testifying to God's power to humble the proud. This points to the gospel's central paradox: Christ humbled Himself and

was therefore highly exalted (Philippians 2:8-11), and believers must humble themselves to be exalted by God (James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6).

## Historical Context

---

Nebuchadnezzar's final testimony (likely near the end of his reign, before his death in 562 BC) represents Scripture's most extensive conversion narrative of a pagan ruler. Unlike Pharaoh who hardened his heart despite repeated warnings, Nebuchadnezzar progresses from grudging acknowledgment (chapter 2) through incomplete recognition (chapter 3) to full confession of God's sovereignty (chapter 4). This theological development spans decades and multiple divine interventions.

The chapter's unique literary structure—a royal proclamation distributed throughout the empire—means Nebuchadnezzar's testimony served evangelistic purposes, proclaiming Yahweh's sovereignty to pagan nations. This fulfilled God's promise to Abraham that through his seed "all nations of the earth" would be blessed (Genesis 22:18). Nebuchadnezzar's humbling and restoration demonstrated God's power to bring even the mightiest kings to acknowledge His sovereignty, encouraging Jewish exiles that their God remained supreme despite circumstances suggesting abandonment.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Nebuchadnezzar's transformation from proud self-exaltation to humble worship model genuine conversion and sanctification?
2. In what specific areas might God be calling you to acknowledge His sovereignty where you currently assert self-sufficient control?

## Interlinear Text

---

לְמֶלֶךְ	וּמְהִדָּר	וּמְרוֹמִים	מְשַׁבַּח	נְבֻכַדְנֶצַּר	אֲנִי הָאֵל	כֹּעַז
the King	and honour	and extol	praise	Nebuchadnezzar	I	Now
H4430	H1922	H7313	H7624	H5020	H576	H3705
יְדִי	דִּין	וְאִתְּתִי	הַקֵּשׁ	ט מַעֲבָד	וְהִי	כָל
H1768	judgment	and his ways	are truth	whose works	all	of heaven
	H1780	H735	H7187	H4567	H3606	H8065
לְהַשְׁפִּילָהּ:	יָכֹל	בִּגְוָה	הַמְהַלֵּךְ	יֵן		
to abase	he is able	in pride	and those that walk			
H8214	H3202	H1467	H1981			

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Samuel 2:3** (Parallel theme): Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

**Deuteronomy 32:4** (Judgment): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

**Acts 17:24** (Parallel theme): God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

**Exodus 18:11** (Parallel theme): Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.

**Psalms 119:75** (Judgment): I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

**Ezekiel 16:63** (Parallel theme): That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.