

Daniel 6:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Darius issues a decree acknowledging God's supremacy: 'I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.' The universal scope ('every dominion') shows empire-wide proclamation. The attributes—'living God,' 'stedfast for ever,' 'kingdom that shall not be destroyed,' 'dominion...unto the end'—comprise sophisticated theology remarkably similar to biblical monotheism. This decree provides testimony to God's character throughout the Persian Empire.

Historical Context

Persian royal decrees were disseminated throughout the vast empire in multiple languages (cf. Esther 8:9). This decree would have reached from India to Ethiopia, providing witness to Yahweh's power among Gentile nations. The theology rivals biblical proclamations—God's eternal kingdom, unchanging nature, and universal dominion. Whether Darius experienced genuine conversion or merely acknowledged Yahweh's power while maintaining polytheism remains unclear, but the decree's content advances God's purposes regardless of the king's personal faith state.

Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

Esther 3:12 (Kingdom): Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

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.