

# Ezra 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus; Unto Darius the king, all peace.

## Analysis

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The letter's salutation "Unto Darius the king, all peace" employs the Aramaic greeting shelama kolla (complete peace). This formal diplomatic opening expressed loyalty and proper respect for royal authority. The greeting mirrors formulas found in other ancient Near Eastern correspondence and establishes the letter's official nature.

The brief salutation contrasts with the detailed report that follows, demonstrating professional efficiency in imperial communication. Persian administration valued concise, factual reporting. The respectful tone indicates Tatnai was not necessarily hostile to the Jews but dutifully fulfilling his administrative obligations.

## Historical Context

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The Aramaic formula "all peace" appears in other Persian-period documents, including the Elephantine papyri from Egypt and various administrative texts. Standard diplomatic protocol required such greetings to acknowledge royal authority. The letter format—sender identification, greeting, report body, and concluding request—follows consistent patterns found throughout the Persian Empire's extensive bureaucratic correspondence.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8 —** Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How should Christians balance showing proper respect to earthly authorities while maintaining ultimate allegiance to God?
2. What does the professional, factual nature of this correspondence teach about maintaining integrity in difficult situations?

## Interlinear Text

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לְדוֹרִי אֲשֶׁר	בְּגֹעַת הַ	בְּתַת יְבָשָׂה	וְכַדְבָּה	שֶׁלְׁחָוֹן	עַלְׁוֹהָוֹן	פִּתְגָּמָם אֲ
<b>a letter</b>	<b>They sent</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>thus</b>	<b>was written</b>	<b>him wherein</b>	<b>Unto Darius</b>
H6600	H7972	H5922	H1836	H3790	H1459	H1868
כָּלָא: שָׁלָמָם אֲ מֶלֶךְ אֲ						
<b>the king</b>	<b>peace</b>	<b>all</b>				
H4430	H8001	H3606				

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