

# THE GOLDEN STATUE

- 60 cubits X 6 cubits
- Colossus of Rhodes 300 BC same or higher
- No reference to statue being representative of a certain person or god
- Represents the one-world government power of Babylon
- Had strong religious element only because of the pagan version of the trinity: King, his nation, the national god



# Between the Old and New Testaments



Black Sea

Caspian Sea

King of the NORTH SYRIA

(Seleucid Empire)

Mediterranean Sea

(Ptolemaic Empire)

Jerusalem

King of the SOUTH EGYPT

- ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE DIVIDED:**
1. Macedon
  2. Pergama
  3. Seleucus
  4. Ptolemy

Persian Gulf

Arabian Sea

Arabien

Nubien

Rotes Meer

Donau  
Balkan  
Thrakien  
Makedonien  
Hellas  
Athen  
Sparta  
Rhodos  
Kreta  
Cyrene  
Ammonium  
Ptolemais  
Theben  
Syene

Byzanz  
Sinope  
Trapezunt  
Ipsos 301 v. Cl.  
Ephesus  
Kilikien  
Carrhae  
Antiochia  
Laodikeia  
Salamis  
Zypern  
Tyrus  
Damaskus  
Gaza  
Petra

Mesopotamien  
Tigris  
Euphrat  
Arbela  
Seleukia  
Babylon  
Susa

Choresmien  
Chiwa  
Maracanda  
Oxus  
Merw  
Bactriana  
Paropamisaden  
Kabul  
Herat  
Alexandria Arachosia  
Persepolis

Alexandria Eschate



- Antiochus Epiphanies viewed Judaism as superstition
- Jews' dedication to One God, Holy Temple, & Torah seen as rigid, dangerous, hateful
- Judaism outlawed, Temple desecrated, Jews who continued to worship YHWH were executed
- Bible criticism scholars say chapter 3 is about Epiphanies, not Nebuchadnezzar
- No oppression is happening in Daniel 3
- People free to continue worshipping their gods, idols, praying, etc.

# CHALDEANS ACCUSE 3 JEWS OF TREASON !



- *Segid* = lay prostrate
- To “pay homage” is best translation
- Golden Statue was a political object
- *Shadrakh, Meshakh, and Aved-N’go* NOT accused of not worshipping the statue-god, but rather all of the Babylonian “gods”

# SHADRAKH, MESHAKH, AVED-N'GO MAKE THE KING LOOK BAD!

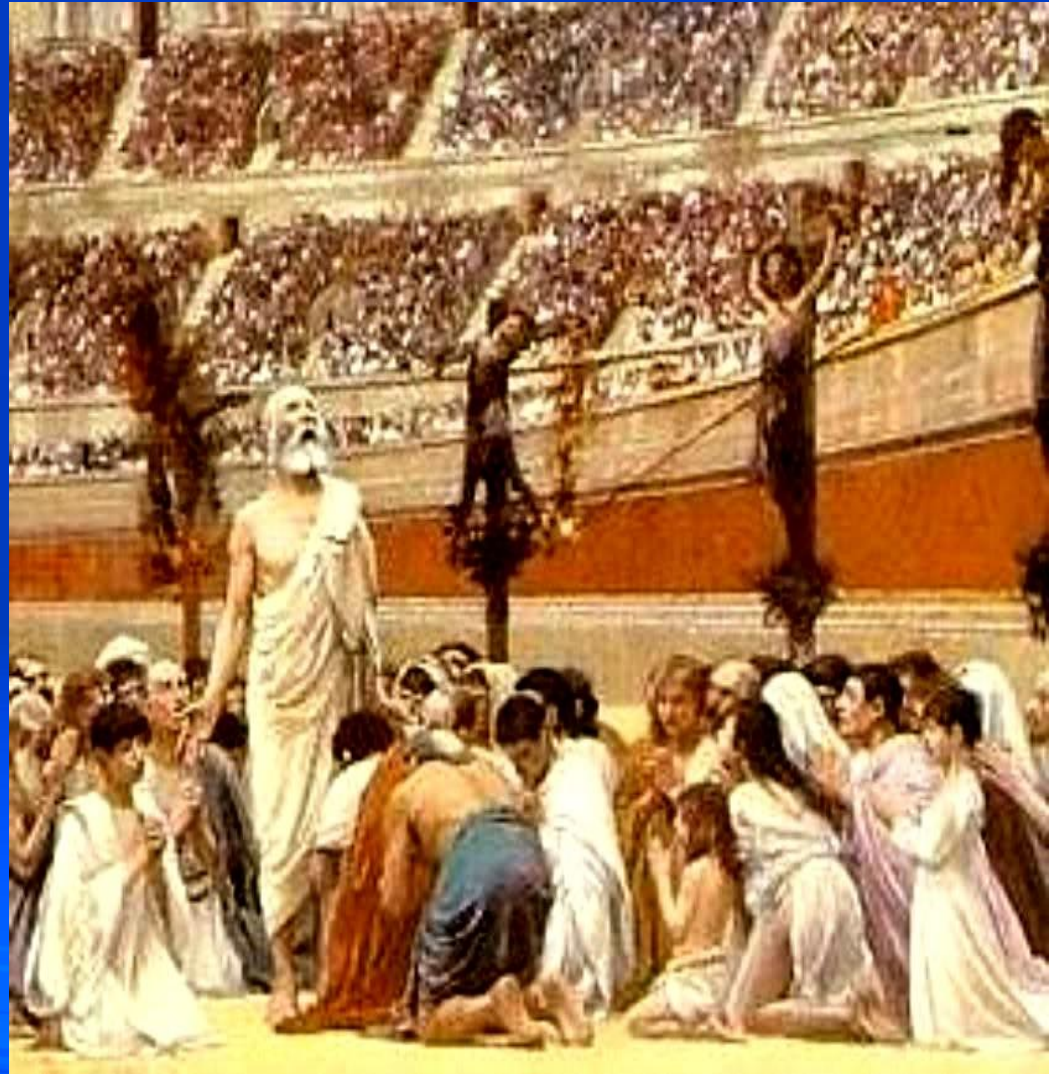


- King didn't expect them to accept multiple-god worship
- Goal was for them to show respect and political correctness
- Hope was they would go-along to get-along
- Response to king sounds arrogant, but likely was more an admission that their guilt was obvious

# DANIEL 3: 17, 18

## FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

- Bible critics regard this passage as referring to religious fanaticism at the time of Epiphanies
- Since God knows their hearts, why can't they briefly do wrong to save their own lives?
- Seems to be doubt in the 3 Jewish men if God is able to save them or not





- They say that whether God CAN or WILL save them from the fire doesn't matter
- They WILL NOT lay prostrate before the symbol of the one-world government power Babylon
- Paraphrase: ***We will do what is right before God and let the chips fall where they may !!***
- Eccl. 12:13 – 14 ***“...fear God and obey His commands....this is what being human is all about”***
- Referring to REDEEMED humans



- Situation was hopeless as Muslims surrounded the Holy City
- Catholic Bishop of Jerusalem suggested they should renounce their Christian faith, profess Allah, then repent later in order to live
- Stark contrast to *Shadrakh, Meshakh, and Aved-N'go*



**LET YOUR  
FAITH  
BE BIGGER  
THAN YOUR  
FEARS**

- Some hate confrontation and won't defend God's truth
- Others MUST please people, so won't point out sin, immorality, or bad doctrine
- Some are concerned about upsetting their social circle or family
- Others don't want to appear to be out of step, so we make our faith expansive, inclusive, and tolerant
- None of this reflects a biblical faith that we see in Shadrakh, Meshakh and Aved-N'go



# WERE SHADRAKH, MESHAKH, AND AVED-N'GO WRONG ??

- 1Peter 2:13, 14  
*“...submit yourselves to every human authority.”*
- Romans 13:1, 2  
*“...whoever resists the authorities is resisting what God has instituted.”*
- Matthew 22:19 – 21  
*“...give to the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor...”*
- Jeremiah 27:1 – 8  
*“...I have given all these lands to My Servant Nebuchadnezzar....”*





# HOW FAR DOES A BELIEVER GO ??

- Gay marriage
- Living with a “significant other”
- Abortion
- Israel
- Biblical doctrines that customize and individualize sin
- Our answer depends on our self-imposed limits to our faithfulness before the Lord
- Luke 14:25 - 35

I FEEL A

SIN

COMING ON