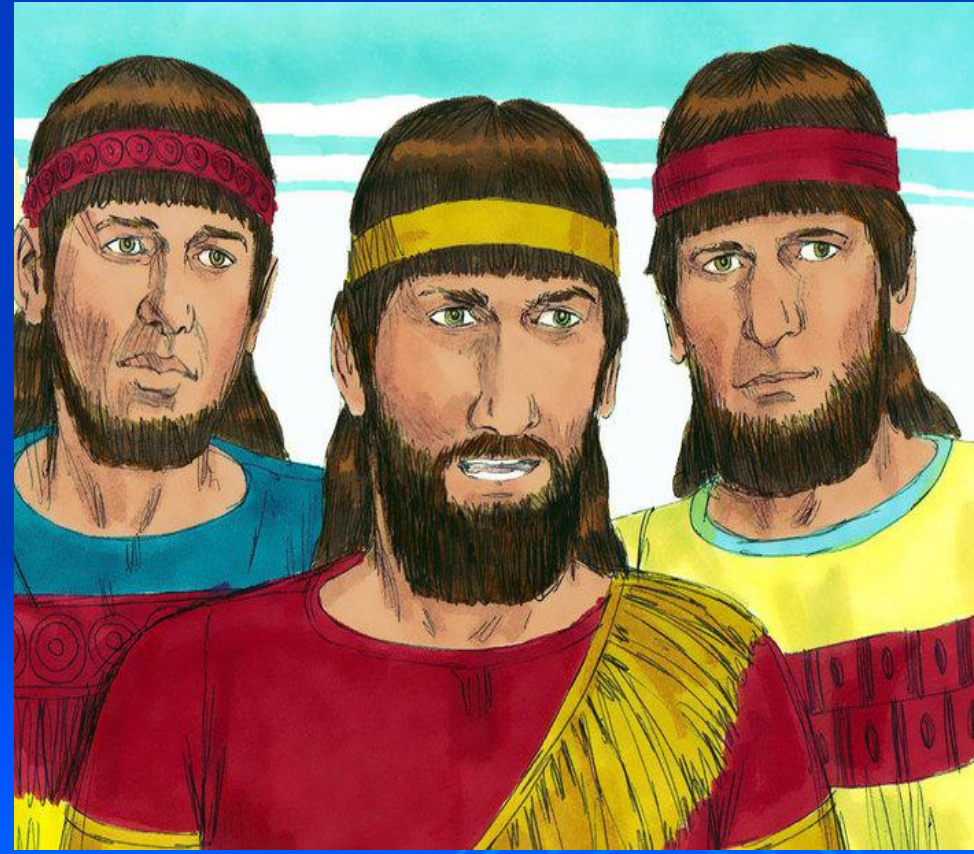


FACING DOWN THE KING OF THE WORLD

- We must consider the implications as followers of *Yeshua*
- We agree intellectually and emotionally with “Faith unto death”, but how about in reality and practice?
- Our circumstances in the West are not usually serious, mostly involving friendships, comfort, confrontation, money or time



“...You cannot be My disciple..”



- Luke 14
- It is NOT just our decision, Christ has set up boundaries
- Vs. 26: Must “hate” your father, mother, closest relatives and your own life
- Vs. 27: Must carry your own execution stake
- Vs. 33: Must renounce all you have



- By comparison to earliest Christians, our standard for “personal cost” is pretty low
- Faith until Death has become Faith until Discomfort
- Shall we agree to redefine good and moral?
- Shall we agree to turn obedience to the Creator to personal preferences?
- How can we say we’re willing to die for our faith, if we’re unwilling to be laughed at or excluded from our social circle?



- 7 times hotter is an absurdity
- This is spoken from a pagan worldview, so it doesn't have the divine symbolism of "7" expressed in Hebrew
- Was a lime kiln or copper smelt furnace
- **Gibbar** = Mighty Men (not "strongest men"), a title of honor for the most decorated soldiers

CAST INTO THE FIERY FURNACE!

- Taken in their court wardrobe directly to the furnace
- The Mighty Men were burned up just getting near
- 3 Jews were also “bound” so that they couldn’t make a mad dash out of the hole at the bottom
- Then something bizarre happens !!

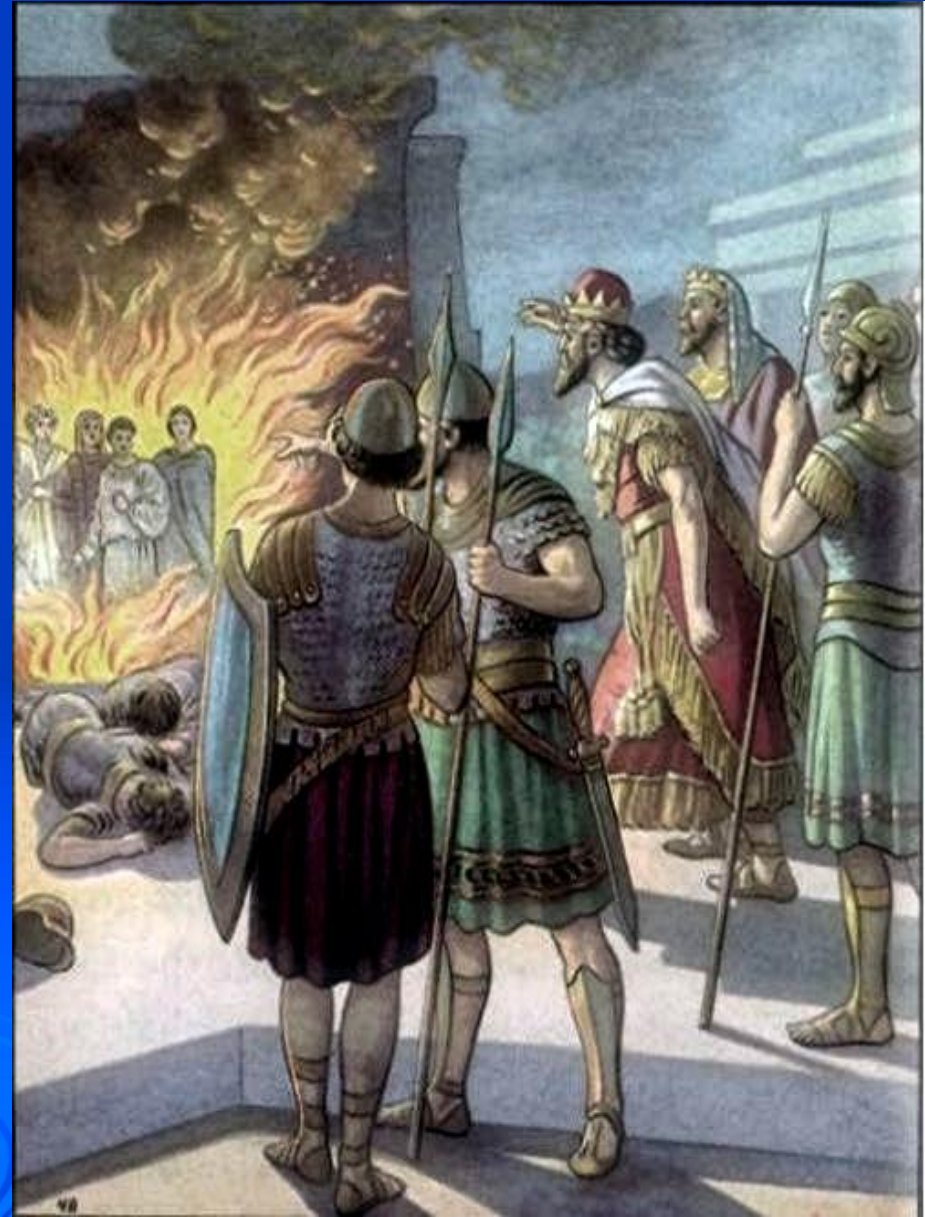




- The Prayer of *Azaryah* (Aved-N'go)
- The Song of the Three Youths (or Three Jews)
- Found only in Greek Scriptures (LXX and Old Greek)
- Catholic and some Protestant and Eastern Orthodox put these prayers in the Apocrypha

4 FIGURES IN THE FIRE

- Why are the 2 prayers (songs) not in the Hebrew bible version?
- Several issues including:
 - 1) *Azaryah* calls the king wicked, God does not.
 - 2) Has flames leaping 75 feet or more from furnace
 - 3) Says the 4th figure is the “Angel of the Lord”
 - 4) King is assured that 3 men were put into the furnace and not 4





- ***Bar elohin*** = Aramaic, son of deity, NOT “son of God”
- In Babylonian theology angels were “deity” even though they weren’t “gods”
- Most Christian doctrines say the 4th figure was Jesus
- Currently practiced Trinity Doctrine established by Basil at Council of Constantine at the end of 4th century
- Carried over to Protestantism from Roman Catholicism
- Earliest Christians (and Jews) said 4th figure was an angel

NEBUCHADNEZZAR ORDERS RESPECT FOR GOD OF ISRAEL



- Nebuchadnezzar puffs himself up
- He sees God's deliverance of the 3 Jews as all about him!
- But in some ways, God agrees
- Verses somewhat problematic
- Looks like a copy of Psalm 145:13
- It would make sense if it was Daniel who wrote the king's letter to the nations of his empire



- Nebuchadnezzar believes in the God of Israel but does not acknowledge His fullness or exclusivity
- Some modern folks say they are “Christians” but do not believe Yeshua is God, or they He can save so He is not the Messiah
- Jesusites = like Nebuchadnezzar
- James 2:19 – 20 ***“....You believe that God is One? Good for you.....the demons believe it, too !”***