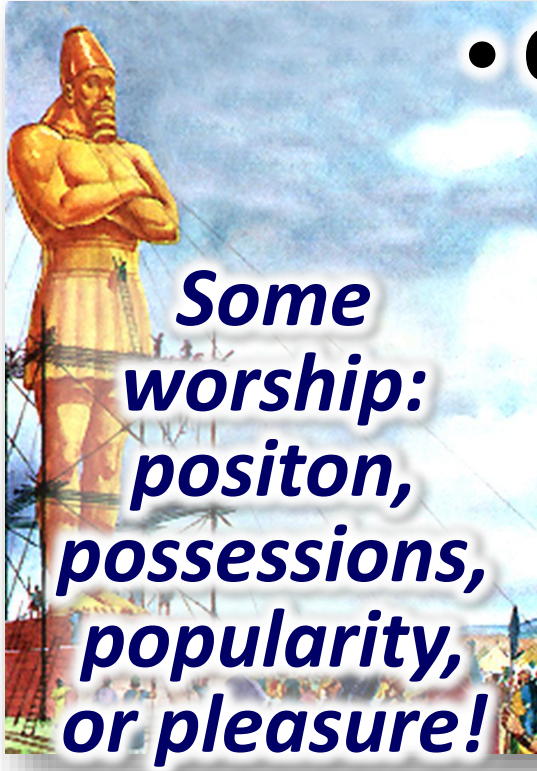


Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

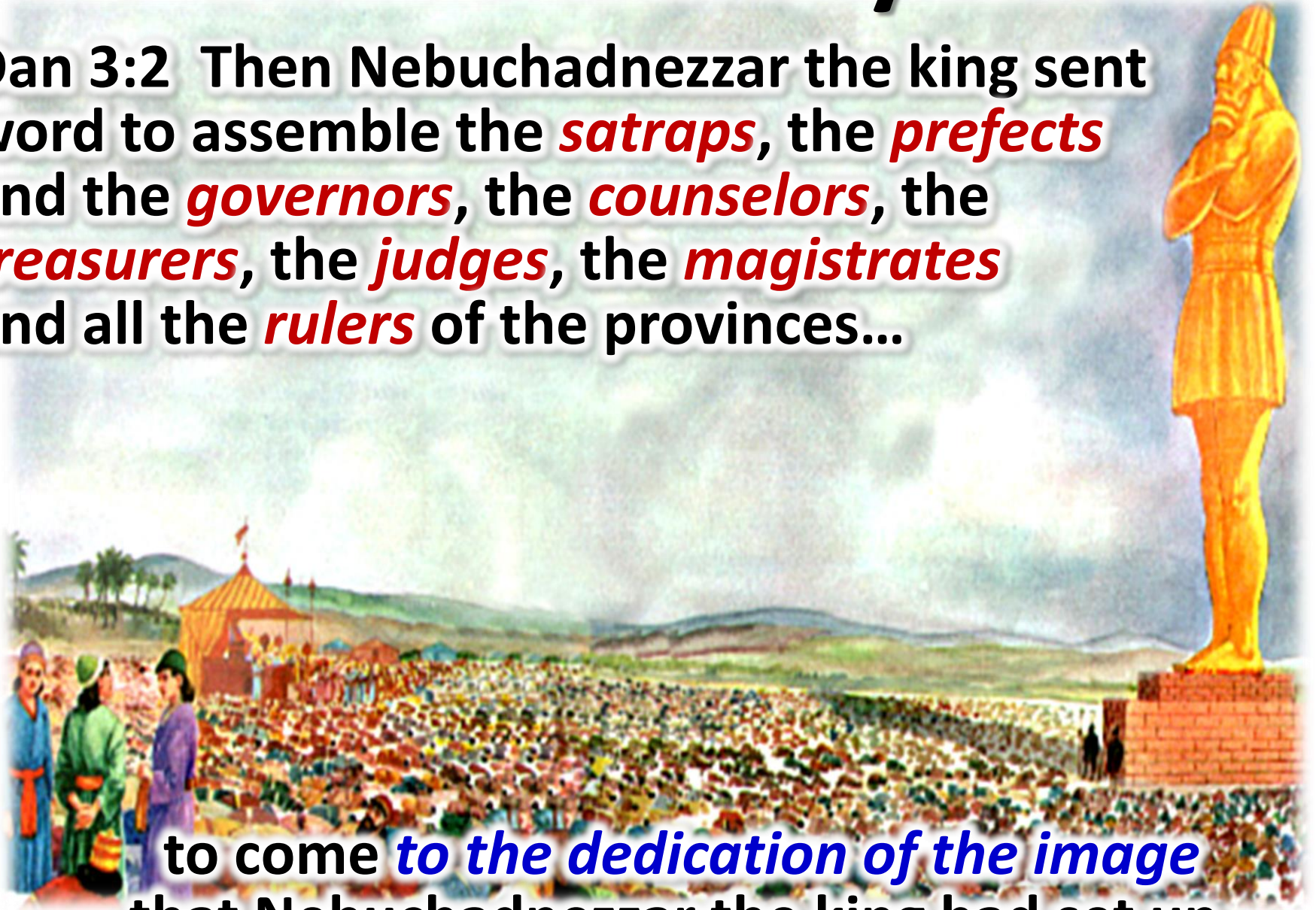
Dan 3:1 *Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold*, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.



- Critics complain that an image 9x90 wouldn't have been made of SOLID gold . But Daniel didn't say "solid."
- In Solomon's temple: the ark, mercy seat angels, altar, doors were made of acacia wood **but overlaid all with gold** . (1 Ki 6:21-32)

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the *satraps*, the *prefects* and the *governors*, the *counselors*, the *treasurers*, the *judges*, the *magistrates* and all the *rulers* of the provinces...



to come *to the dedication of the image* that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Exactly what this image *represented* is *unstated* (*The Empire, Nabopolassar, Bel?*)

Note: empire -wide administrative heads were required to *worship it*, or be executed (v5-6)

This would include officials as *Shadrach Meshach & Abednego*. (v12)



Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:5 “*At the moment you hear the sound* of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon... and all kinds of music, *you are to fall down and worship the golden image* that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

Gentile *Polytheists* would find nothing distasteful in adding another god to their pantheon of gods.



The fires of social conformity still burn brightly.
Pressure to accept alcohol, drugs & immorality thrive

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:6 "But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the *midst of a furnace of blazing fire.*"

Burning in a furnace was used in Persia to punish those contributed to food scarcity, or who have used false weights, or who have disregarded the laws respecting taxes. *Barnes*

Cooks were fixed on spits, & roasted over a *gentle fire* and the bakers were cast into a *burning oven*.

Pulpit re (Jer 29:22) Burning in a fiery furnace was a common punishment both among the *Assyrians and the Babylonians.*

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:8 At that time certain **Chaldeans** came forward & brought charges against the Jews. **[Jealous Dan 6:4]**

Dan 3:12 There are certain **Jews** **[Are foreigners]**

Whom you have appointed over the **administration of the province** **[Elevated positions]**

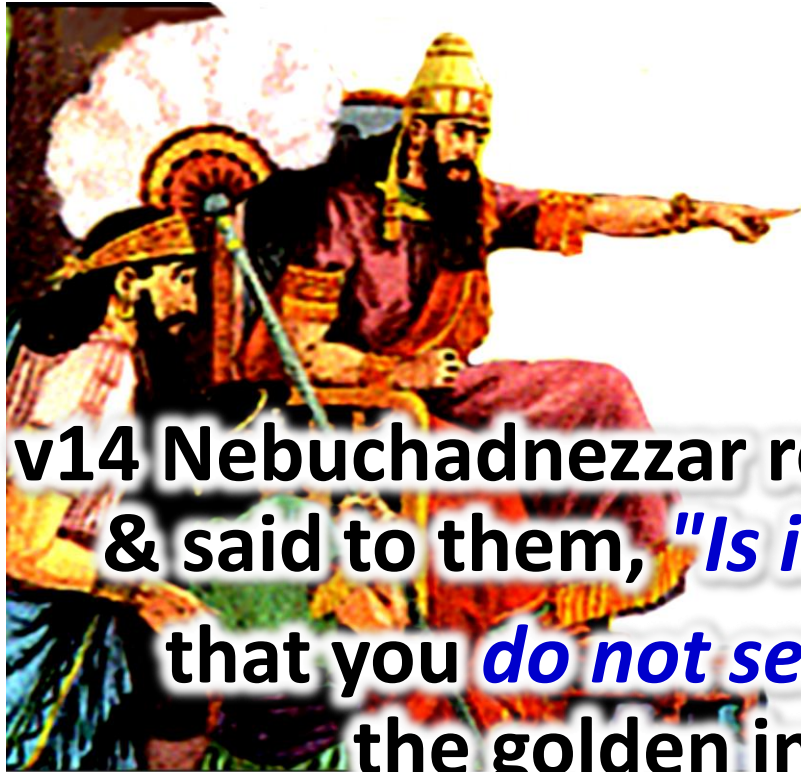
O King, have **disregarded You** **[Personally insulted]**

They do **not serve your gods** or **worship the golden image** which you have set up. **[aliens, with alien religion & rebelliously flaunt Your clear laws].**



Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:13 Then Nebuchadnezzar *in RAGE and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.*
Then these men were brought before the king.



v14 Nebuchadnezzar responded & said to them, *"Is it true...*

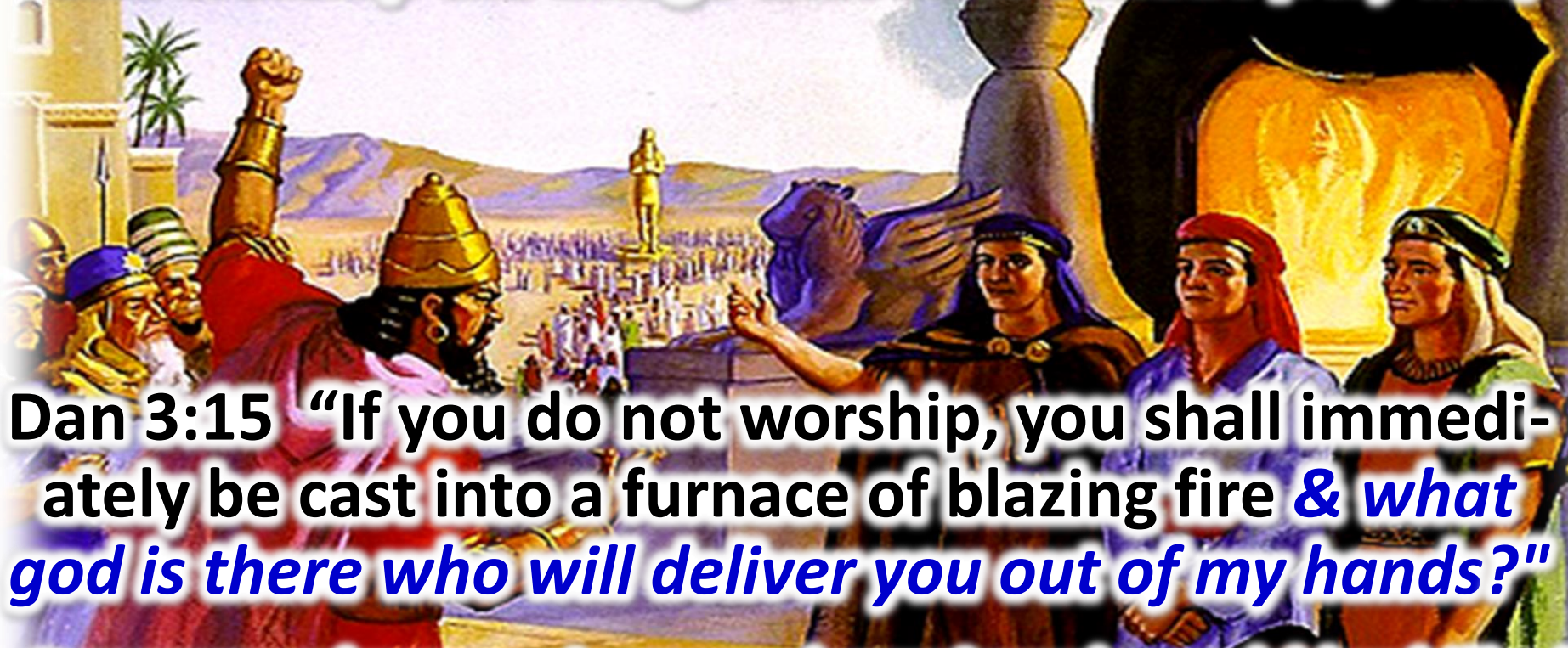
*Wise to ask first
(Prov 18:13, 17)*

that you do not serve my gods nor worship the golden image that I set up?"

The king would see this as disloyal, anti-god, and anti-government

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:15 "*Now if you are ready* ... to fall down and worship the image that I have made [*very well*]



Dan 3:15 "If you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a furnace of blazing fire *& what god is there who will deliver you out of my hands?*"

*Pagan gods were immoral, regional, could be killed and **only somewhat powerful**. He's shown himself **more powerful by overcoming other nation's gods.***

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:16 "O Nebuchadnezzar, ***we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.***"

We don't need to make a formal defense..



We trust God & leave the outcome with Him

v.17 ***"Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire & He will deliver us out of your hand.."***

v.18 ***But even if He does not ... we are not going to serve your gods nor worship the golden image that you have set up.***

Make up your mind in advance—to be dedicated (1:8)

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:19 Nebuchadnezzar
**was filled with wrath,
& his facial expression
was altered** toward
Shadrach, Meshach
& Abed-nego.

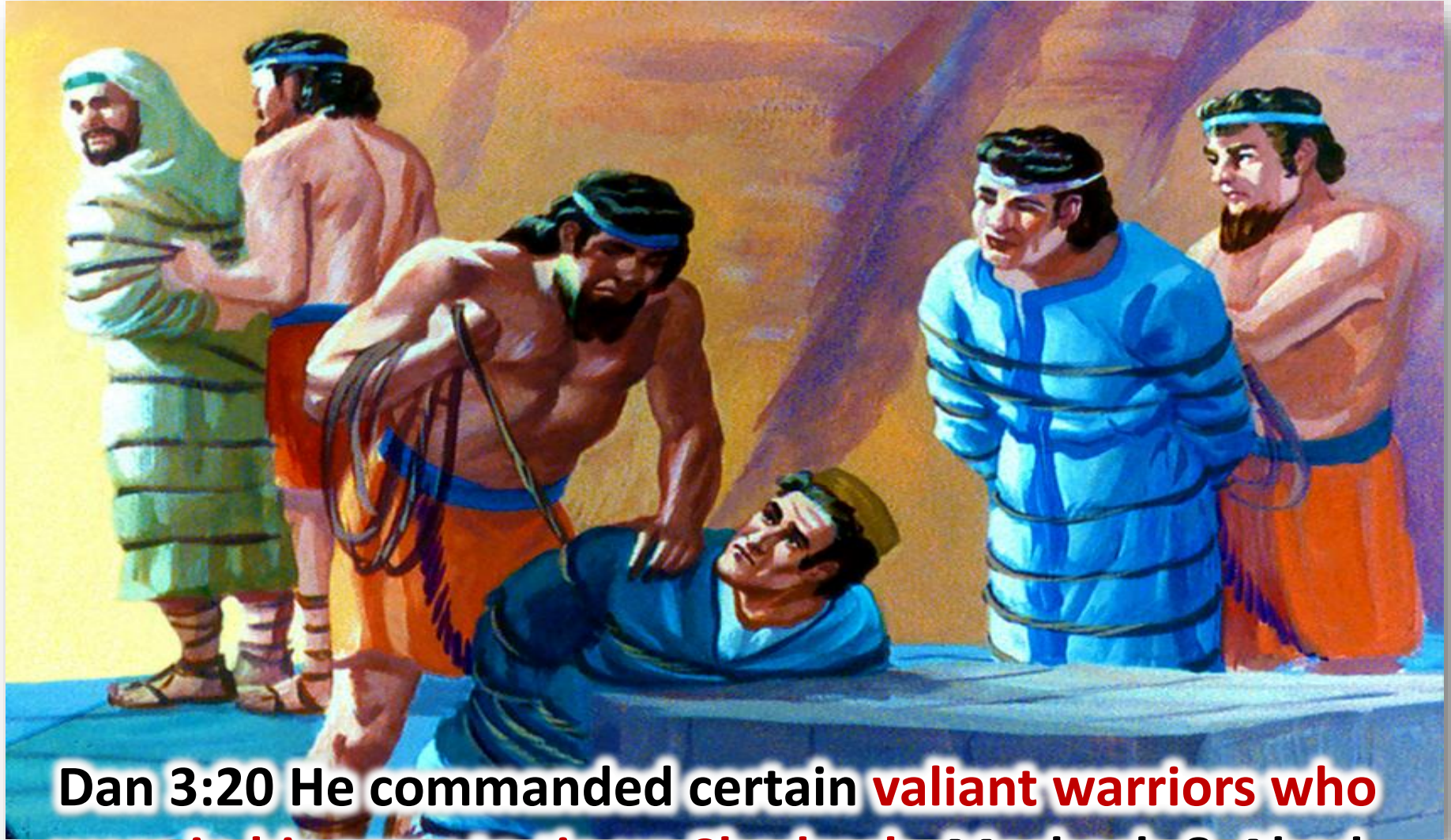
His hope for their
compliance is gone.



He answered by giving orders to **heat the furnace
seven times** more than it was usually heated.

That is, they should make it as hot as possible. *Barnes*

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace



Dan 3:20 He commanded certain **valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-nego**, in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire.

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:22 Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the *flame of the fire slew those men who carried up* Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.



This Fire is *SO HOT* it is lethal to those *OUTSIDE!*

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:23 But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, *fell into the midst of the furnace* of blazing fire— *still tied up*.



No escape possible for them by ordinary means!

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace



Dan 3:24 Then
Nebuchadnezzar
the king was astounded
and stood up in haste..

he responded and said to
his high officials, "*Was it
not **three men** we cast
bound into the midst
of the fire?*"

They answered and said to the King ...
"**Certainly, O king.**"

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

v.25 Look, *I see four men loosed walking about..* without harm & *the 4th is like a son of the gods*

An illustration depicting the biblical story of the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace. Three men are shown in the foreground, surrounded by intense orange and yellow flames. One man on the left has his arms raised in praise, wearing a blue headband and a grey tunic. The man in the center has his hands clasped in prayer, wearing a green cloak. The man on the right is also in prayer, wearing a blue robe. To their right, a fourth figure stands amidst the flames, glowing with a bright, radiant light, representing the supernatural presence of God.

“Son of the gods” represents a common Semitic expression for identifying a supernatural being.

IVP Bible Background

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:26a Then Nebuchadnezzar

came near to the door
of the furnace
of blazing
fire.



Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

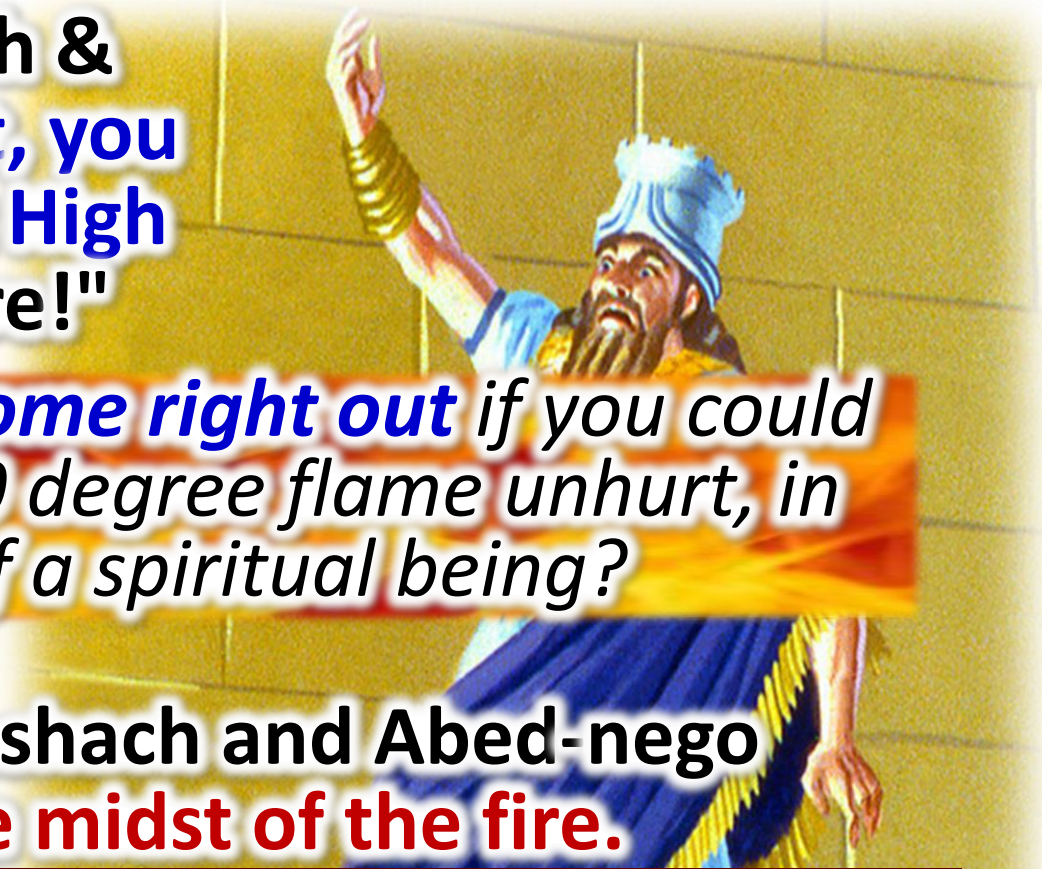
Dan 3:26b [the king].. responded and said ..

"Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-nego, **come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!**"

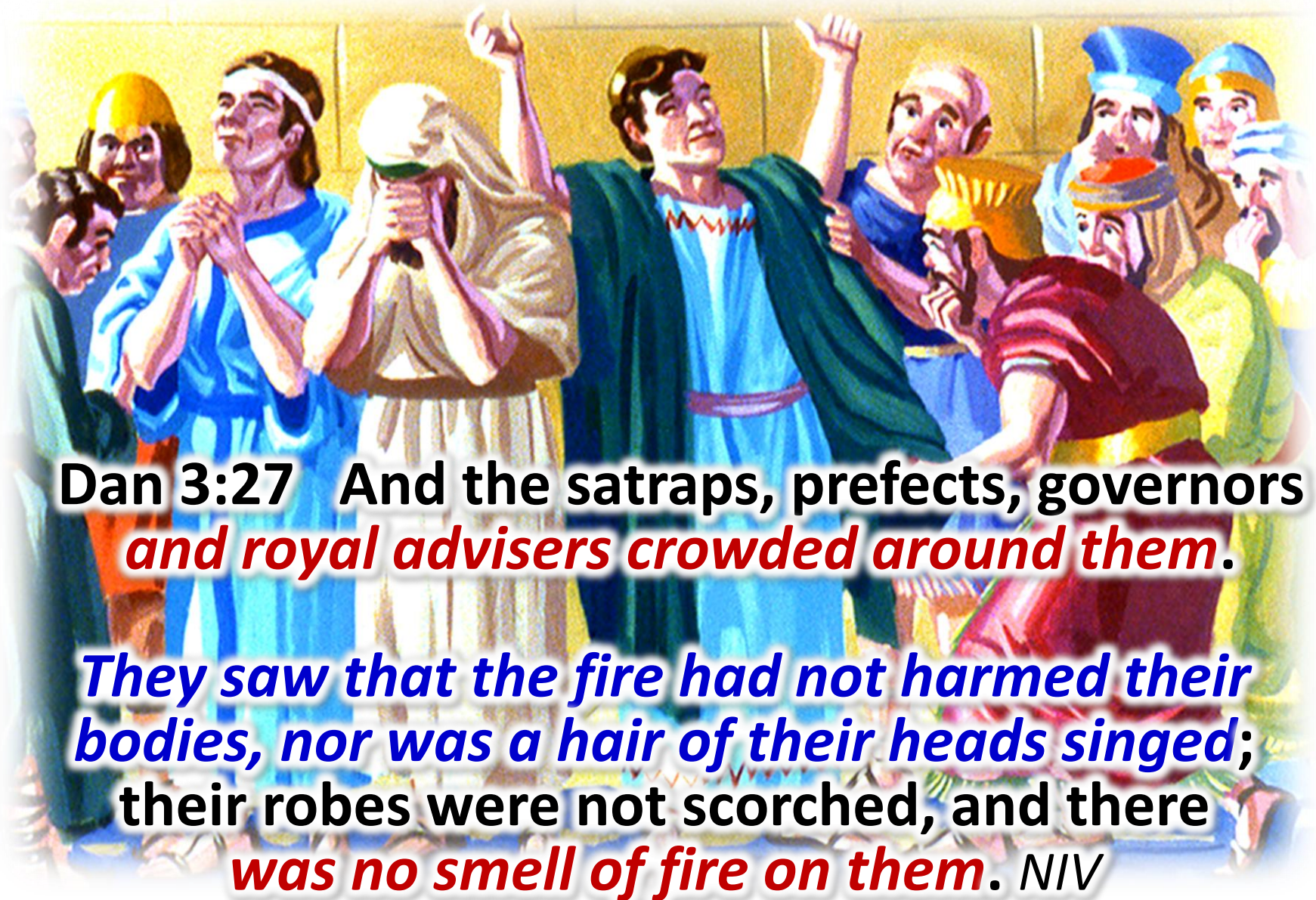
Would you hurry to come right out if you could walk in midst of 1500 degree flame unhurt, in the presence of a spiritual being?

Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego **came out of the midst of the fire.**

Sometimes it takes fire to make a believers faith shine more brightly !



Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

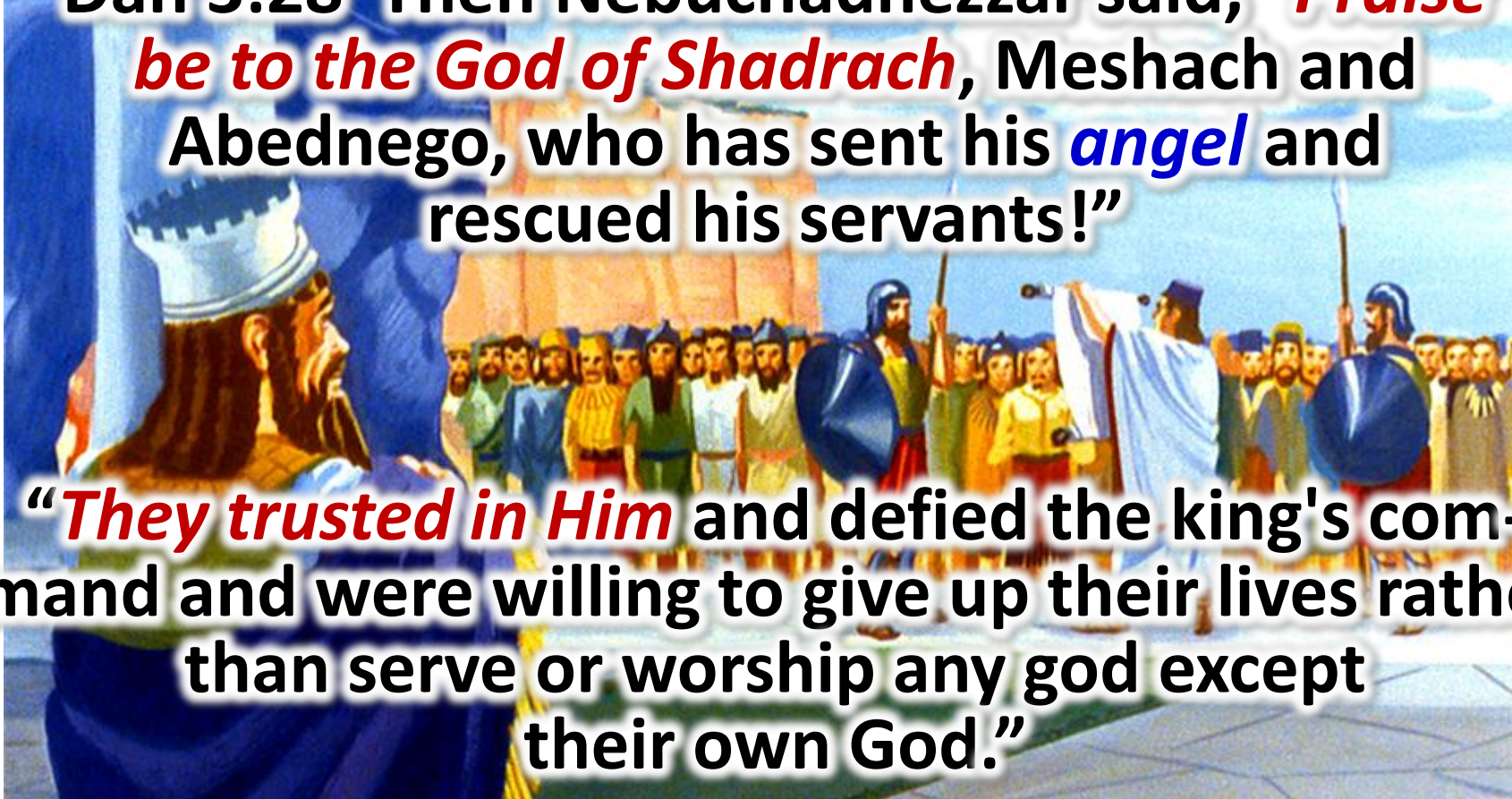


Dan 3:27 And the satraps, prefects, governors
and royal advisers crowded around them.

*They saw that the fire had not harmed their
bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed;
their robes were not scorched, and there
was no smell of fire on them.* NIV

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "***Praise be to the God of Shadrach***, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his ***angel*** and rescued his servants!"



“They trusted in Him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.”

God has Us here to **BE** different and to **MAKE** a difference! Whom will YOUR actions inspire?

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace



Dan 3:29 ***Therefore***
I decree that the people
of any nation or language
who say anything against
the God of Shadrach,
Meshach, & Abednego

***Dan 3:29 shall be torn limb from limb and their
houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there
is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."***

The King is **not** changing Babylonian religion.
Just endorsing the God of Israel, as well.

Daniel 3 The Fiery Furnace

Dan 3:30 Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego *to prosper in the province of Babylon.*

This is exactly the *opposite* of what their enemies wanted to see happen!

What if God prospered *you physically* in balance *with how you prosper spiritually?* (3 Jn 1:2)

800-475-0288
Amiscus