

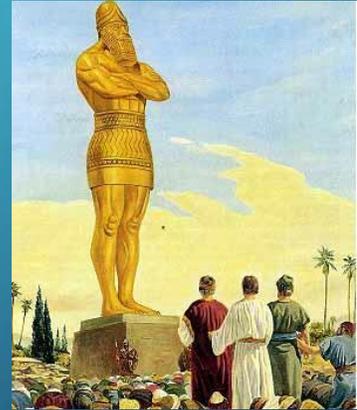


THE MOST HIGH GOD PART 1

DANIEL CHAPTER 3

A GOLDEN IMAGE

- (v.1-3) Instead of an image of many kinds of metal and clay as in chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar wanted a statue that was completely gold. Clearly he did not like God's plan.
- I highly doubt this image was in solid gold, but even to cover such a tall statue with gold may exceed 1 million ounce.
- Although he acknowledged that the God of Daniel (2:46-48) is powerful, he had yet to accept God's authority in his personal life. The golden image was his proclamation that his empire would endure in spite of what God had declared.



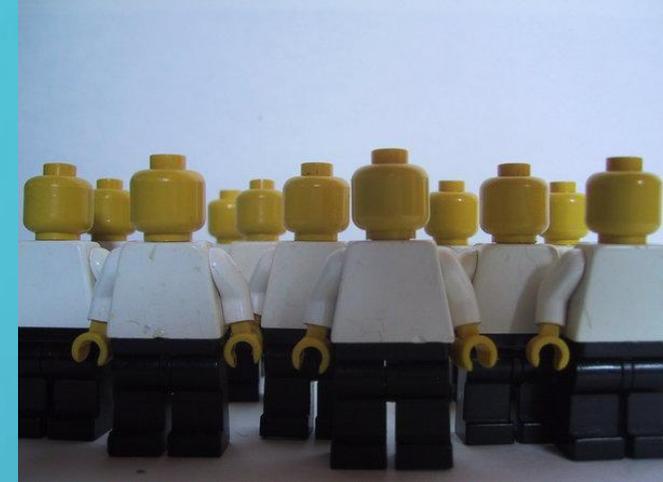
ACCEPTING GOD'S AUTHORITY



- Sadly many of us do the same thing, acknowledge God's power but not his authority. Have you accepted God's authority in your life?
- What is accepting God's authority? Accepting His plan is a good plan for us (Jer. 29:11) (ill: weakness)
- (Psalm 2) **God is still God** no matter how much control we can exercise over our weakness. It never works for anybody to do things their own way apart from God (John 15:5).

THE KING = OUR GENTILE WORLD

- (v.1-3) First, the king wanted to be **his own god**
- (v.4) Second, the king wanted to be **worshiped**, the ultimate image of being a god
- (v.5) Third, the king wanted **conformity** (Rom. 1:32; 12:1)
Everyone does the same thing at the same time.
- Finally, the king wanted to **punish** (v.11, 15) all the dissidents
- We are still living in that same world today...



TO WORSHIP OR NOT TO WORSHIP...

- To obey the king was a clear violation of God's **commandments** (Exo. 20:4-5)
- What would you do if you were in their place?
- Sadly this is not a hypothetical question, this may happen to us one day. How will you answer then?
- To a lesser extent we are already facing such questions continuously **today**. (ill: work place)



- (v.18) There were two parts of the refusal, not to serve their gods or bow down to their images (1st and 2nd Commandment)
- They may look to be the same thing, but they are not
- Many of us could choose not to worship all the gods of our days **publicly**, but deep down long for them. (ill: jones)
- The opposite may be true, we could choose to bow down due to **public pressures** but deep down not be satisfied with them at all. (ill: buddies)
- Nevertheless, in either case these are not happy people...are you happy?

- (v.18) “but if not” these are some of the most powerful words ever spoken by anyone. They are the **ultimate expression of faith** (Heb. 11:1, 13, 39).
- The **ground** of refusal is not because of the promise of better circumstances, more blessings, to avoid God’s wrath, to please God, or to earn God’s favor.
- It was a simple belief that **God is good** and that is good enough for them. They did not refuse for the sake of gaining anything or to avoid anything. Since if that is the case, there is always a point that we **WILL** fail when we calculate what we try to gain or avoid is too great for the price to pay.

THE MOST HIGH GOD

- After the king experienced such a miracle, he called God “the Most High God” (v.26). What an appropriate name. Moreover this is the very answer of life (Isa. 55:9).
- Are you willing to acknowledge that God is the Most High today?
- Remember: **Choosing** is not the answer. The answer is **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**
- God is **walking** with those who trust Him by faith, acknowledging that God’s path is better than our path (2 John 1:4).

