

# In a Strange Land (Daniel)

## The Golden Image

### Foundation

#### Bible passage : Daniel 3

Powerpoint: For units 2-4 the same picture is used as all the action takes place in Babylon.

Background: A thousand years before Daniel's time the Lord had give the people of Israel various commands and particularly what are known as the Ten Commandments. The first of these were that they should worship the Lord and that they should not make any idols - that is statues to worship. But Daniel and his friends had been taken away as captives to a country where worshipping idols was very common.

Serving the King: Then they found themselves being commanded by King Nebuchadnezzar to worship an idol he had set up. Some of the early followers of Jesus faced similar threats if they refused to make offerings to Roman gods or to worship the Roman emperors. Similar things have happened to other Christians in the years since.

Hatred: We also find out in verse 8 that some people in Babylon hated the Jews. (Jews, literally Yehuday, is increasingly used at this time in the Bible and refers to those who had been members of the kingdom of Judah.) Some of these people see this an opportunity to get rid

#### The Song of the Three

This song is said to have been written by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. There is no evidence that it was part of the Scripture's in Jesus' time but it does form part of the Old Testament Apocrypha included in some Bibles. It is sometimes said or sung in churches and also known by opening word in Latin "Benedicite".

*Babylonian idol in the British Museum.*



of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. We don't know why they didn't target Daniel

too, but perhaps he was just too important for them to risk going after him.

*"we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up"*

Who will you obey? : Despite the threats the three young men refused to obey the King because they must obey the Lord, who is King. What happened next is well known. They trusted in the Lord to deliver them but said that even if He did not then they would still do what is right even if it meant dying. In the event the the Lord rescued them but others in Bible and through history died for refusing to disobey God. These three men were then thrown into the furnace, but they were protected. As a result the King commanded his subjects to respect the Lord and the three men are promoted. Again we see that God is King.



**The three men knew that God is king and if commanded to go against God then they must still obey him, whatever the cost.**