





Hope Seeking After Joy

The Legacy of Daniel

Chaplain Argle Smith



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Assimilation / Indoctrination Training:

- Akkadian & Aramaic Language Mastery (Including Cuneiform)
- Literature & Wisdom Texts
 - Mythology (Enuma Eliosh, Epic of Gilgamesh...)
 - Astrology, Astronomy, Mathematics & Divination...
 - Medical, Omen, Dream Interpretation manuals
- Government & Court Procedure
- History, Religion, and Cultural Studies
 - The Pantheon, Babylonian Worldview, Rituals

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Daniel and His Three Friends Never Compromised Their Faith!

Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. (Daniel 1:6-7)

The Names

Daniel = God Is My Judge

Hananiah = Yahweh Is Gracious

Mishael = Who Is What God Is

Azariah = Yahweh Has Helped

Belteshazzar = Bel Protect His Life

Shadrach = Command of Aku (moon-god)

Meshach = Who Is What Aku Is

Abednego = Servant of Nabu (nerd-god)

Daniel and His Three Friends Never Compromised Their Faith!

But **Daniel resolved not to defile himself** with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now **God had caused the official to show favor and compassion** to Daniel... (Daniel 1:8-16)

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom. (Daniel 1:17-20)

And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus. (Daniel 1:21)

Date BC	Ruler	Events	Daniel's Age	Daniels Status
612-609	Assur-ubalitl II	Last Assyrian Ruler at the fall.	Not Born	---
626-605	Nabopolassar	First Neo-Babylonian Emperor	0-13	Born 618 BC – Exiled 605 BC
605-601	Nebuchadnezzar II		13-17	Daniel Completes Training
603-562	...	The Dream Interpretation on...	17-58	Made Chief of the Magi
562-560	Amel Marduk	Frees Jehoiachin	56-58	...
560-556	Neriglissar	Stabalizes Rule	58-62	...
556	Labashi-Marduk	Overthrown Quickly	62	...
556-539	Nabonidus	Long Absences/Belshazzar Co-Regent	62-79	4 Beasts, Writing on the Wall
539-530	Cyrus (Darius)	Babylon falls to Persia	80-88	Third Ruler of Babylon
539	Cyrus	Persian Empire assumes Babylon	80	Third Highest Administrator
538-537	Cyrus	Edict	81-82	Lion's Den
538	Cyrus	Issues Return Decree for Jews	80-82	
530	Cyrus	Dies	88	Dies around this time.

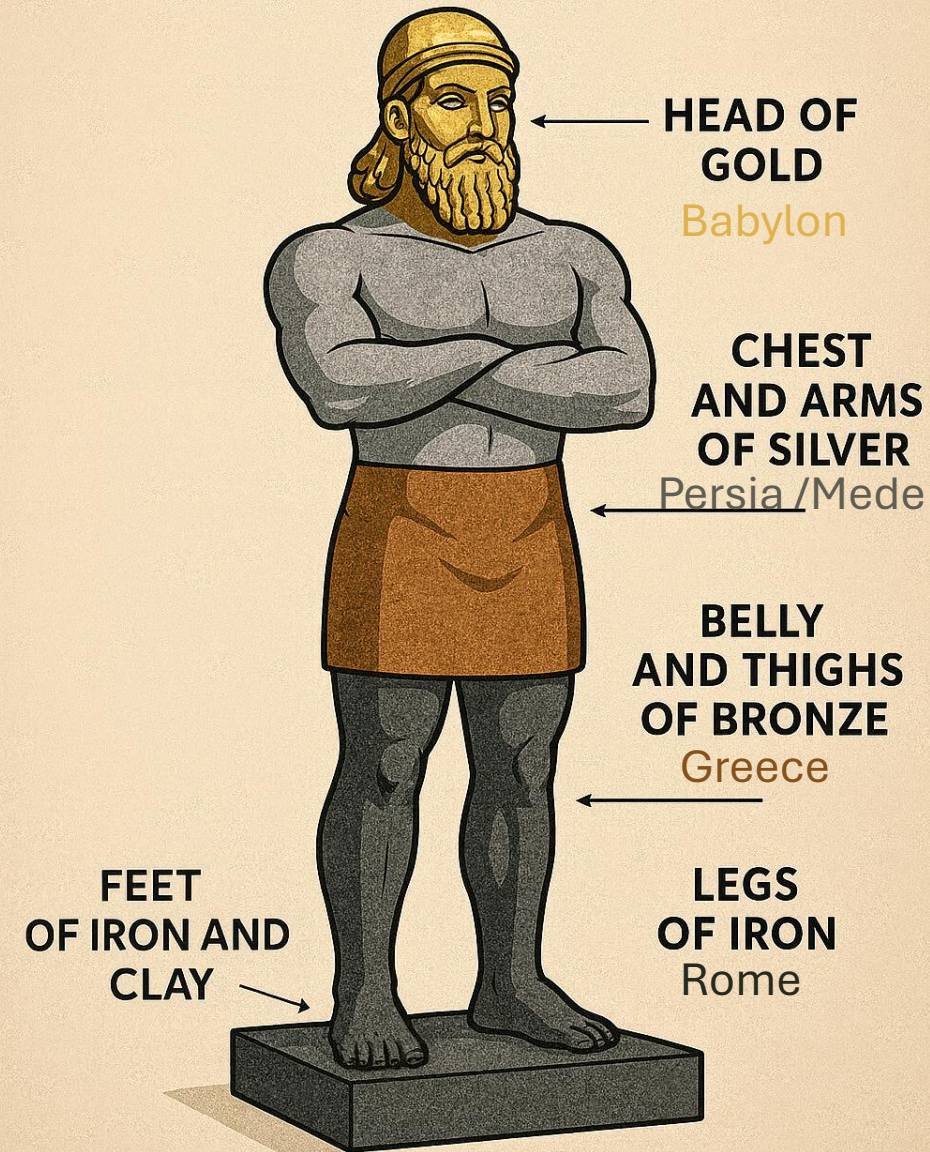
Spoilers

CLASSIFIED

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. (Daniel 2:1-2)

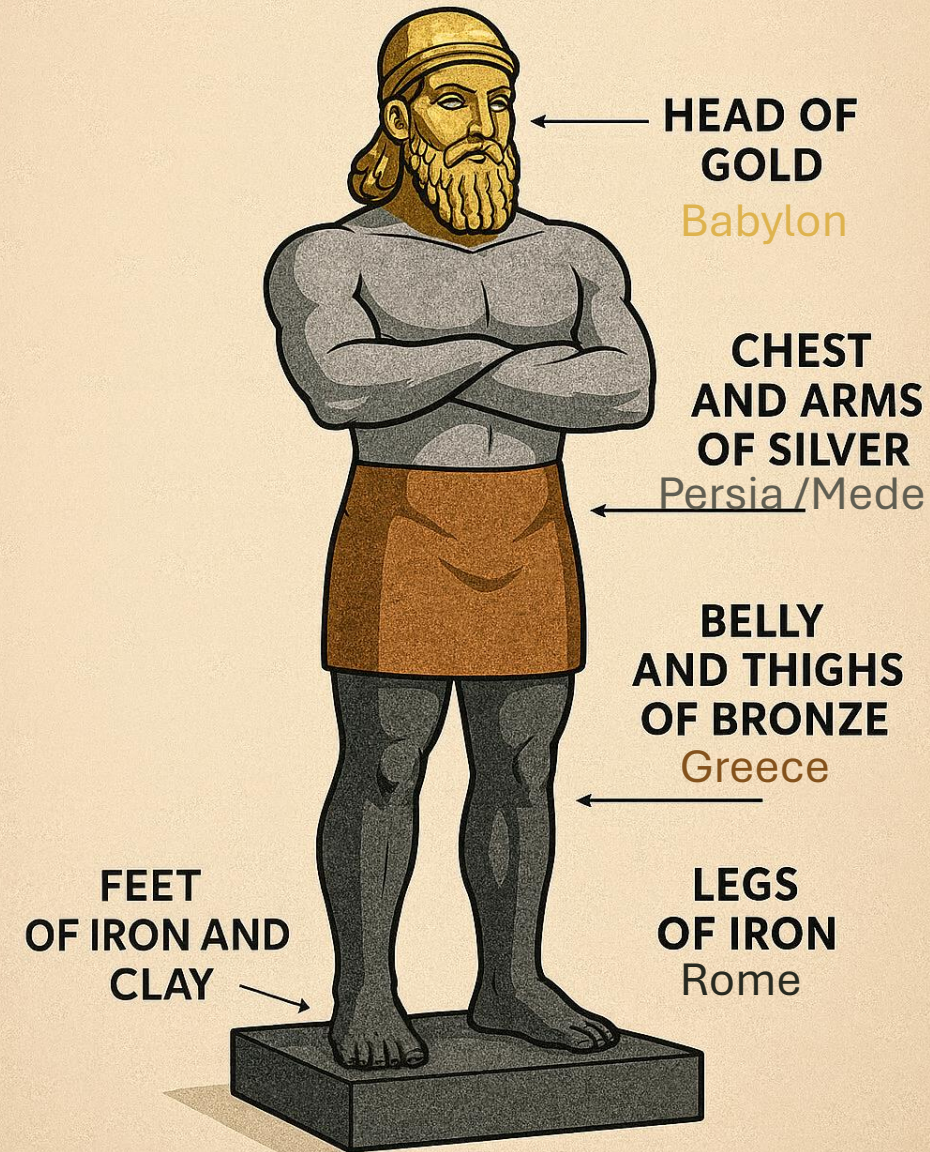
THE STATUE IN KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

The astrologers answered the king, “There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. What the king asks is too difficult. **No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.**”
(Daniel 2:10-11)

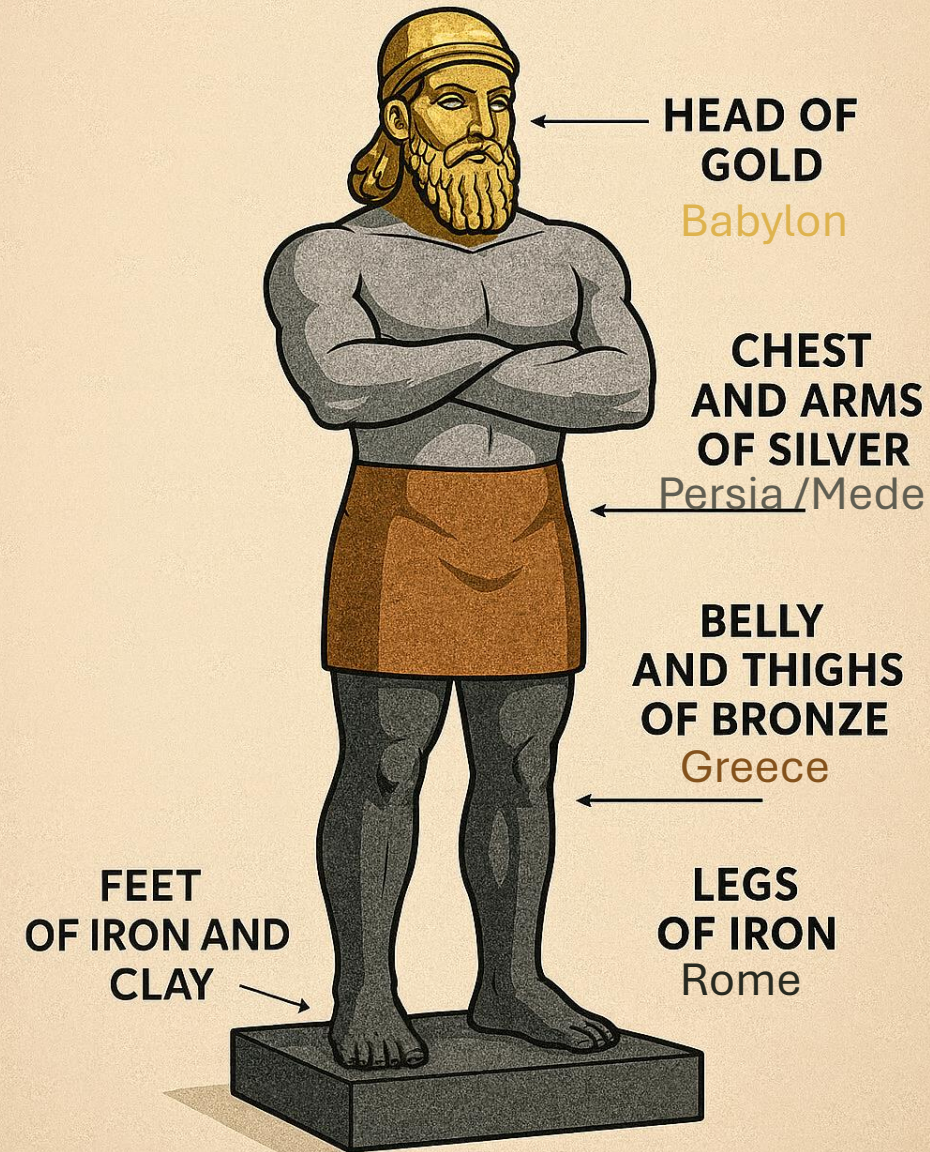
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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the **wise men of Babylon**. So the decree was issued to put the **wise men** to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death. (Daniel 2:12-13)

THE STATUE IN KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



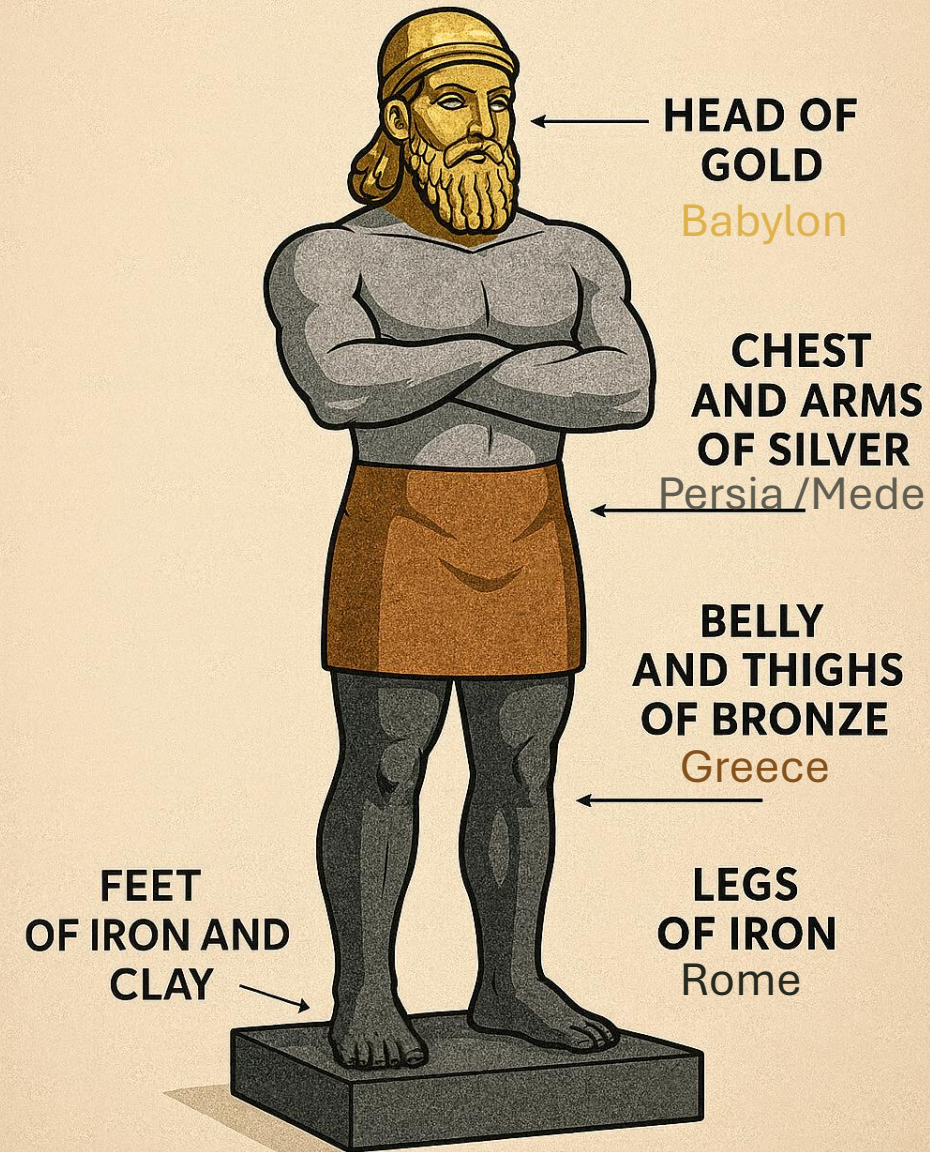
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

Babylonian Religious System

The Wise Men (Magi)

- Chaldeans (Babylonian ruling Priestly class of astrologers & astronomers/heaven gazers, horoscopes, etc.)
- Magicians (Egyptian religious class)
- Enchanters (Exorcists; Daniel)
- Sorcerers (Anyone who casts spells)
- Diviners (Reading animal entrails, etc.)
- Miscellaneous/Etcetera

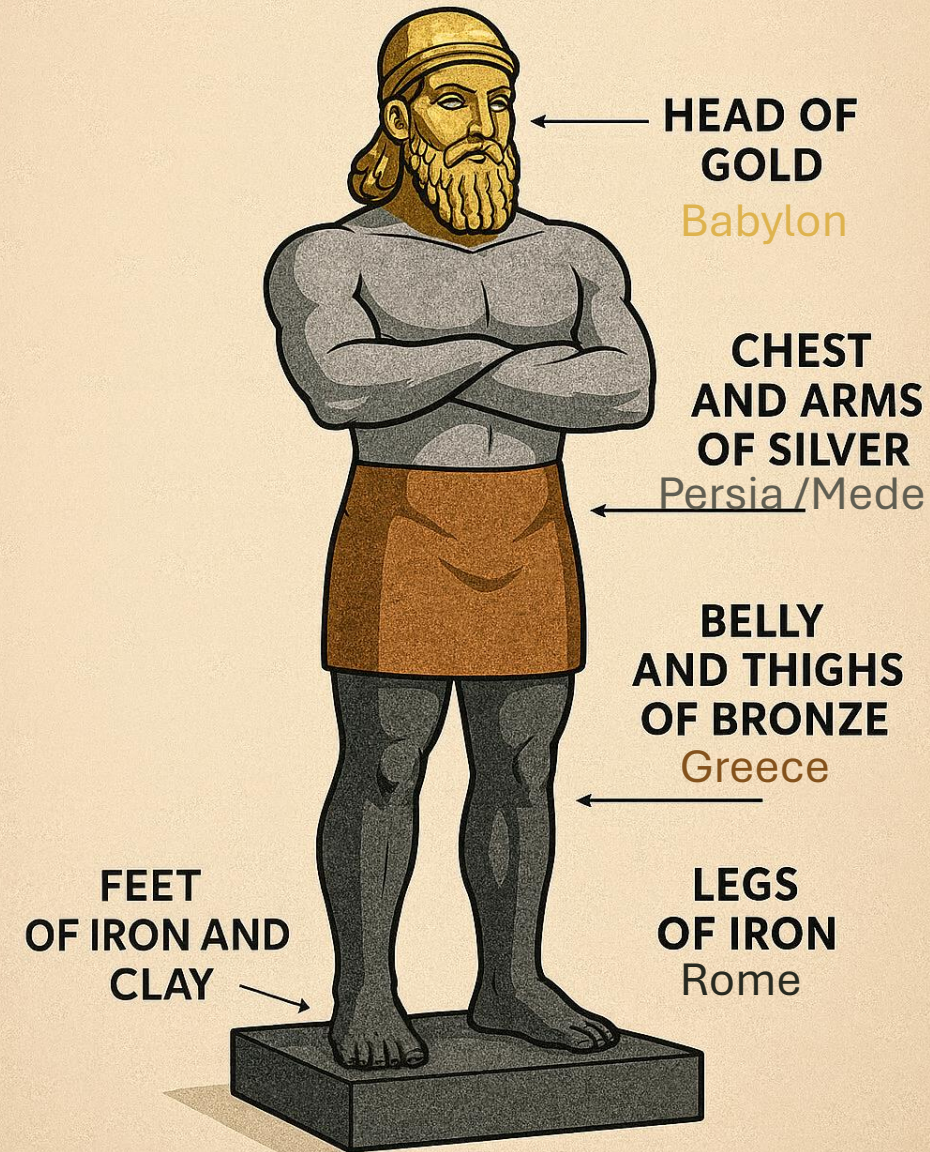
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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him. Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy **from the God of heaven** concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven... (Daniel 2:16-19)

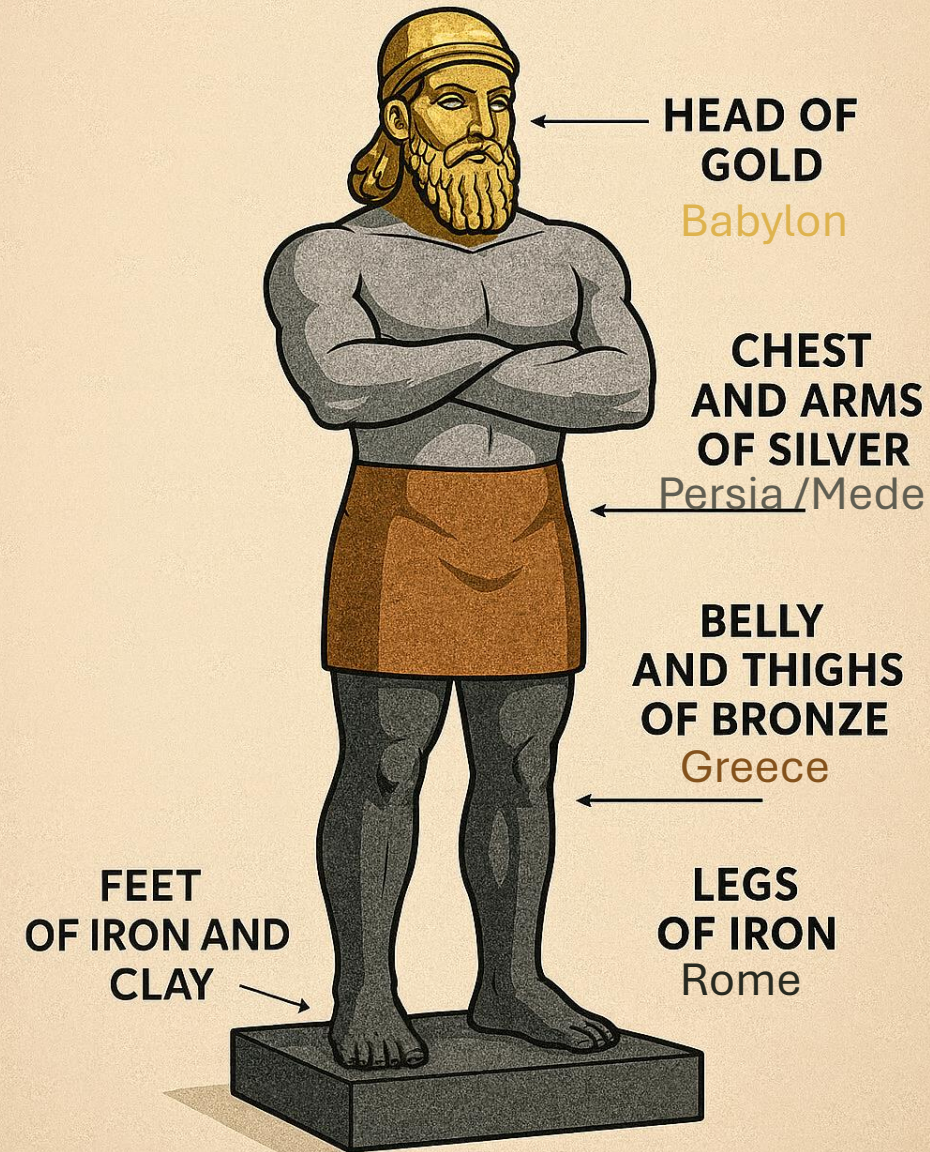
THE STATUE IN KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." (Daniel 2:46-47)

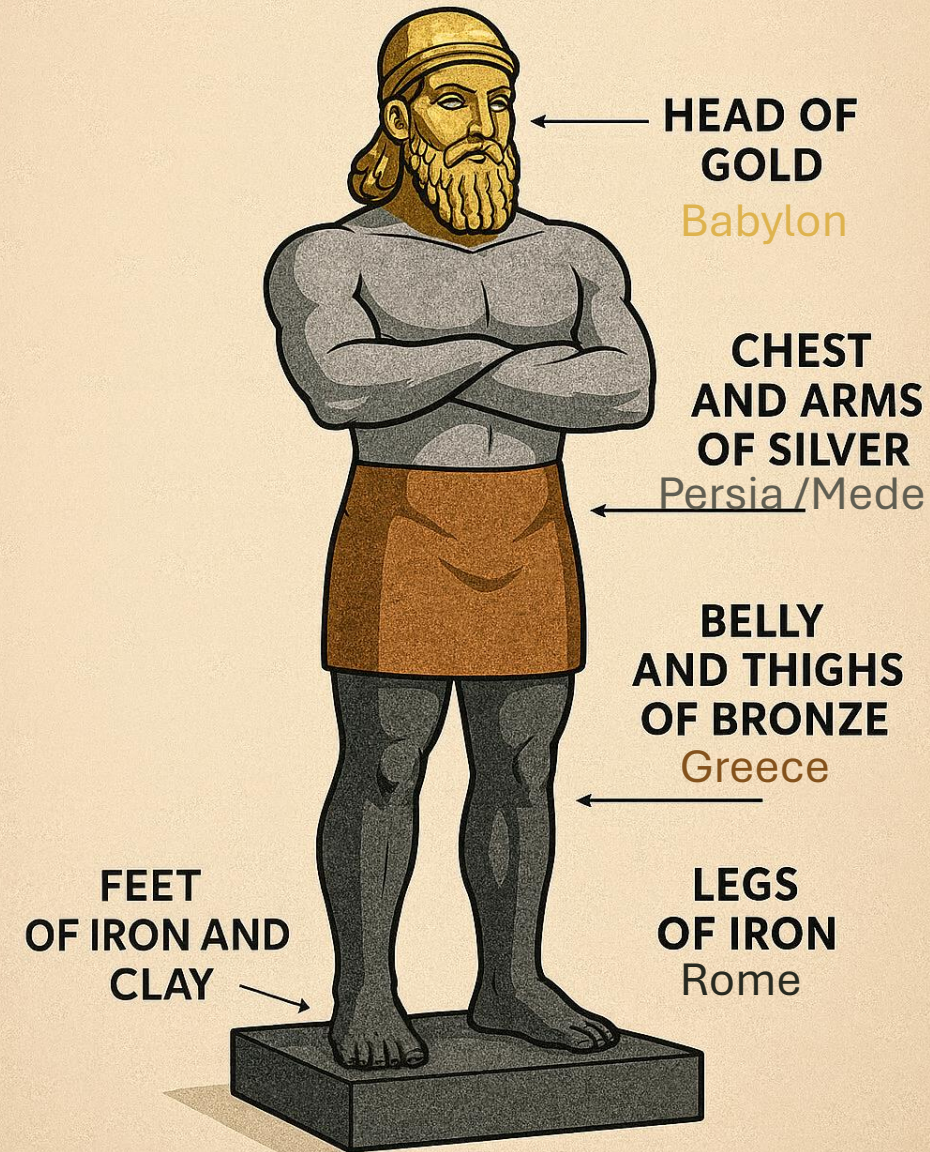
THE STATUE IN KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court. (Daniel 2:48-49)

THE STATUE IN KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



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After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:1-2)



Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” (Matthew 2:7:8)



After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (Matthew 2:10-12)

