

The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

Characters: Narrator, Nebuchadnezzar, Astrologer, Herald, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

Narrator: Babylon had conquered Jerusalem. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken Jerusalem's strongest and smartest citizens, and forced them to serve in the Babylon Empire. Over time, three Israelite men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were given more and more responsibility due to their hard work, in which they did to serve the Lord. One day, the Babylon slaves that were building a gold statue for Nebuchadnezzar finished their work.

Nebuchadnezzar: Now that my statue is finished, I want all people in Babylon to come before it, bow to it, and worship it.

Narrator: The people of Babylon, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego went to the statue's dedication ceremony. The herald yelled out:

Herald: All people of Babylon will bow before the golden statue when the trumpeters and drums sound!

Narrator: At that instance, the music started, and everyone in Babylon bowed down, except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king's astrologer saw this, and told Nebuchadnezzar about their refusal to bow:

Astrologer: Sire, you decreed that anyone that would not bow before your statue would be thrown into a fiery furnace, and burned alive.

Narrator: When Nebuchadnezzar heard about the three men's refusal to bow down to the statue, he was furious. He went to them and gave them a second chance:

Nebuchadnezzar: I order you to bow down before this statue! If you don't, I will throw you into the furnace, and you will be burned alive!

Shadrach: Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If you throw us into the fiery furnace, then God will protect us! We will not bow before anyone that isn't our Lord!

Narrator: Nebuchadnezzar was furious, and ordered the furnace to be heated to 7 times hotter than usual. He then ordered some of his soldiers to tie up

the men, and throw them in. Those soldiers were killed when they threw the men in, because the furnace was so hot. Nebuchadnezzar looked in the furnace, and saw four men inside—the three that were tied were untied, and were walking around. And the fourth man looked like a God!

Nebuchadnezzar: Look! I see four men! They are all unharmed! And the fourth looks like a son of the gods! Come out, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God!

Narrator: The three men came out of the furnace, completely unharmed. All of their clothes were intact, and they didn't even smell like smoke!

Nebuchadnezzar: Praise to your God for saving you from the fire! You defied my orders, but your God protected you! Therefore, I make this decree: may no one speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, or I will order them to be killed and their homes burned!

Narrator: Nebuchadnezzar promoted the three men to the highest posts in all of Babylon after his decree.