

In our last lesson, we talked about four young men who were captured and taken to Babylon. Daniel was given a position in the king's court in Babylon. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were also given important jobs.

King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge image. It was made of gold. The image was an idol to worship. The golden image stood 90 feet tall. (Dan. 3:1) Nebuchadnezzar called together all the governors and high officials. The king had a dedication to show them the golden image. He gave orders for all the people to worship the idol.

King Nebuchadnezzar told the people that when they heard the sound of a certain music, they should fall down and worship the idol. (Dan. 3:5) He told the people that anyone who did not follow his command would be cast into a burning fiery furnace. (Dan. 3:6)

When the people heard the music, they would all bow down and worship the idol. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego did not follow the orders of the king. They would not worship the idol. They would only worship God.

Some of the men accused Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego of not obeying the king's orders. They went to the king and told him the three Jewish men were not worshipping his idol. They reminded the king of what he had said. Anyone not worshipping the idol would be cast into the fiery furnace. (Dan. 3:11)

King Nebuchadnezzar was very angry. He asked the three men if it was true that they would not worship the golden image. The king told them they would be cast into the fiery furnace if they did not worship the golden image. (Dan. 3:15) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego told the king that they would trust God to save them from the fiery furnace. They told the king that no matter what happened, they would not worship his god, the idol. (Dan. 3:17-18)

King Nebuchadnezzar was so angry that he told his men to heat up the furnace seven times hotter than usual. (Dan. 3:19) The king told some of his stronger men to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego and throw them into the furnace. (Dan. 3:20)

The three Hebrew men were thrown into the fiery furnace. The furnace was so hot that the flame of the fire killed the men who threw them in. (Dan. 3:22)

When King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw the men. He yelled to his guards and asked them, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” (Dan. 3:24)

King Nebuchadnezzar told the guards that he saw four men walking around in the flames inside the furnace. The four men were not hurt by the fire. The king said the “form of the fourth man was like the Son of God”. (Dan. 3:25) God had sent an angel to protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego from the fire.

King Nebuchadnezzar went to the opening of the furnace. He called out, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here”. (Dan. 3:26) The three men came out of the fire. The men were not hurt at all. Nothing on them was burned. Their hair was not singed. Their clothes were not burned. They did not even smell like smoke. (Dan. 3:27)

God had saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego from death in the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar knew they had trusted God and God had saved them. King Nebuchadnezzar made a decree. The decree said that if any person spoke against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, their house would be burned. Nebuchadnezzar gave them very important positions, or jobs, in Babylon.