

# The burning fiery furnace

(Daniel 3:1-30)

## Key words

King Nebuchadnezzar: Long live the King!

Statue: Cor, that's big!

Instruments: (Sing a fanfare)

Furnace: Wow! That's hot!

God: Hallelujah!

King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!) built a statue (Cor that's big!) of himself. It was ninety feet high! The statue (Cor that's big!) towered above the buildings so everyone could see it. King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!) summoned all his officials for the dedication of his statue (Cor that's big!).

"When the instruments (fanfare) play," he said, "you must all fall down before my statue (Cor that's big!) and worship it, alright? And Oh yes, if anyone doesn't fall down before my statue (Cor that's big!) when the instruments (fanfare) play they will be thrown into a burning fiery furnace!" (Wow! That's hot!).

Not surprisingly when the instruments (fanfare) played everyone in the land fell down and worshipped the statue (Cor that's big!) that King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!) had set up. Well nearly everyone anyway.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were three of King Nebuchadnezzar's (Long live the king!) officials. They were different from the other officials because they worshipped God (Hallelujah!). Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said:

"We will never worship a statue (Cor that's big!), we will only worship God (hallelujah!). So when the instruments (fanfare) played, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: did not worship the statue (Cor that's big!) but stayed standing up and prayed to God (Hallelujah!).

Some of the other officials reported this to King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!) and he was very angry. He summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

"When the instruments (fanfare) play why will you not fall down and worship my statue?" (Cor that's big!), he asked. "You know the penalty. If you do not fall down and worship my statue (Cor that's big!) you will be thrown into the burning fiery furnace" (Wow! That's hot!).

King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!) decided to give Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego a second chance. So he ordered the instruments (fanfare) to play. Everyone fell down and worshipped the statue (Cor that's big!) except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who stood up and prayed to God (Hallelujah!).

King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!) was furious. He ordered the furnace (Wow! That's hot!) to be made seven times hotter and then told his soldiers to throw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in. They disappeared into the flames of the burning fiery furnace (Wow! That's hot!).

But suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar [Long live the king!] jumped up from his throne. In the furnace (Wow! That's hot!) he could see Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walking about as if they were out for a stroll. But someone else was with them, someone who he thought looked like a God (Hallelujah).

“Get them out! Get them out!” shouted King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!), and he called into the flames “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out of the furnace (Wow! That's hot!)!”

When they came out everyone was amazed, they were not burned or even singed. In fact they didn't even smell of smoke!

“How?” asked King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!).

“Well,” said Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, “we trusted God (Hallelujah!) and he saved us.”

King Nebuchadnezzar (Long live the king!) was amazed at the power of God (Hallelujah!), so he sent a message round his whole kingdom.

“Everyone must worship the God (Hallelujah!) who saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He is the only God (Hallelujah!) to worship, for he is the most powerful God (Hallelujah!).

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