
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 12, Bible Truth 4

The Case of the Faith that Faced Fire *Daniel 1-3*

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. "Turn back to Me," the LORD told the people of Judah many times through the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. But the people kept on worshipping fake gods. So, the LORD let their enemies come, destroy their city, and take them away to be slaves in faraway Babylon.

2. But not everyone forgot the LORD. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego kept on obeying Him and trusting His promises: "This punishment will turn the people back to Me. My Spirit will change their hearts. One day, I'll bring them home. Best of all, I'll send a Savior to save them from their sins."

3. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were young, smart and handsome, the very kind of workers Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, wanted. "Go to the king's school to learn about him and his gods," they were told. "You'll wear rich clothes, eat good food, and help the king."

4. What a good life the king was offering them! But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew this was just a tricky trick. The king wanted them to forget the LORD, and honor him and his fake gods instead. And what would happen if they didn't honor the king or his gods? Time would tell.

5. "I'm the greatest king in the world!" King Nebuchadnezzar boasted. "Everyone should honor me and my gods," he decided. "Build me a great, golden statue," he told his builders. "Make it as high as a tall building. Put it where everyone can gather around and worship," he ordered.

6. The workers built the great, golden statue. Then, the king sent word to all the people: "Gather and worship at my great statue. When you hear the music, fall down and worship me and my gods," he ordered. "And if you don't, you'll be thrown into a hot, fiery furnace," he warned.

7. When the musicians played their music, everyone fell down before the statue and worshipped. All, that is, except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They knew the LORD was the one, true God, not the king or his gods. They would worship only Him and trust Him to take care of them.

8. Yes, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood while everyone else bowed down. Someone noticed and told the king. Nebuchadnezzar was furious! The three men were brought before him, and he said, "Bow down, or be thrown into furnace! What God can rescue you then?"

9. "You're wrong, oh king," the men replied. "The LORD, the God we serve, can deliver us if He wants to. And even if He doesn't, we'll keep worshipping Him and be happy with what He wants," they said. "The LORD is the one, true God. He knows and does what's best!"

10. Now, King Nebuchadnezzar was even angrier! "Make the furnace seven times hotter! Tie up these men and throw them in!" he ordered. Soon, the fire was raging hot. It was so hot that the king's men died from the heat as they threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the flames.

11. Then, King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace and was amazed. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were alive! And there was a fourth, heavenly person, in the furnace with them! "Come out of the fire," the king ordered the men, and they came out, completely unharmed.

12. No longer did the king want anyone to bow down before him or his statue. He sent out a new order to the people, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They trusted in Him rather than worship my statue. Honor the LORD, their God. What a great God He is!"