

## **The Blazing Hot Furnace**

Daniel 3

by Don Falkos

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King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and ordered that everyone was to bow to it whenever they heard the music prescribed for times of worship. "Anyone who doesn't worship will be thrown into a blazing hot furnace." The music played, and people worshiped.

But the king was informed Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the gold statue. Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered the three men be brought to him. He gave them one last chance to worship. They said, "Your Majesty, our God is able to save us from the blazing hot furnace. But even if that doesn't happen, we want you to know, we will not worship the gold statue."

Nebuchadnezzar was utterly enraged. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up and thrown into the blazing hot furnace. The guards who threw them in were killed by the heat.

Nebuchadnezzar suddenly sprang to his feet in alarm. "Look! I see four men in the furnace. They're untied and walking around unhurt. And one of them looks like a god." He approached as close as he could and called out, "Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego – come out of there!"

The three men stepped out of the furnace. They were entirely untouched by the flames; their hair wasn't singed; their clothing wasn't scorched; and they didn't smell like fire. Nebuchadnezzar promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and praised their God, saying, "There is no other god who can save like this!"