Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the Fiery Furnace

Parts:

King Nebuchadnezzar

Herald

Government Officials/Astrologers/Guards/Advisors

Shadrach

Meshach

Abednego

Jesus (referred to as Fourth man)

Note: The government officials, astrologers, guards, and advisors are one part. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego can be one part if you don’t have enough children.

King: I am the great King Nebuchadnezzar. I have made this image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide. Come all my government officials and worship it.

Herald: This is what you are commanded to do, O people, nations and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.

(Government officials come and bow)

(Astrologers approach the King)

Astrologers: O king, live forever! You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.

King: This cannot be true! Send for them immediately.

(Astrologers leave)

(Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego approach the King)

King: Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?

Shadrach: O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.

Meshach: If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.

Abednego: But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up

King: I have heard enough! Guards!

(Guards approach)

King: Heat the furnace seven times hotter than usual and take these prisoners to it. Throw them into the fiery furnace!

(Guards take Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the furnace and “throw them in”)

(Fourth man walks into the furnace)

(King and advisors approach)

King: Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?

Advisors: Certainly, O king.

King: Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!

(Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego come out of the furnace)

(Fourth man leaves)

King: Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.

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