

Read Daniel 3:8-15

**8** But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews. **9** They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “Long live the king!

**10** You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments.

**11** That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace.

**12** But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.”

**13** Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in,

**14** Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up?

**15** I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?”

**What did a group of the wise men (astrologers) do (v. 8)?** They tattletaled on the Jews.

**What did they remind the king of (vv. 9-10)?** That he had written a law that all the people had to bow down and worship the statue whenever they heard the worship music.

**What was the penalty if anyone refused to bow down and worship the statue (v. 11)?** They would be thrown into a blazing, fiery furnace.

**Who were the Jewish men who refused to obey the king’s order to serve the Babylonian gods and worship the gold statue (v. 12)?** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Remember how the king had been so pleased with them that he had given them a very important and prestigious job (2:49)? **Do you think the astrologers were jealous because they were Jews?**

**How did the king react when he heard that the three men refused to bow down and worship the gold statue (v. 13)?** He was really angry. He threw a fit. The king demanded that the three men be brought to stand before him.

**After the three Jewish men came to see the king, what did he ask them (v. 14)?** Did you really refuse to serve my gods or worship the gold statue I set up?

**How did the king threaten the three Jewish men (v. 15)?** He gave them one last chance to bow down and worship the statue. And if they didn’t, they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. And he said that even their God will not be able to rescue them from his power. **Is that true?**