

Reader's Theater Script

Characters: Narrator, Herald, Chaldeans, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, Counselors

PART 1 DANIEL 3:1, 3:4–6

Narrator: ¹Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. . . . ⁴Then a herald cried aloud:

Herald: (*Loud announcer's voice*) To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; ⁶and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

PART 2 DANIEL 3:8, 3:12–15

Narrator: ⁸Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. . . .

Chaldeans: ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.

Narrator: ¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them,

Nebuchadnezzar: Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?

PART 3 DANIEL 3:16–18

Narrator: ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king,

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego: O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.

PART 4 DANIEL 3:21–27

Narrator: ²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²² Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors,

Nebuchadnezzar: Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?

Counselors: True, O king.

Nebuchadnezzar: ²⁵ Look! I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Narrator: ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying,

Nebuchadnezzar: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.

Narrator: Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.