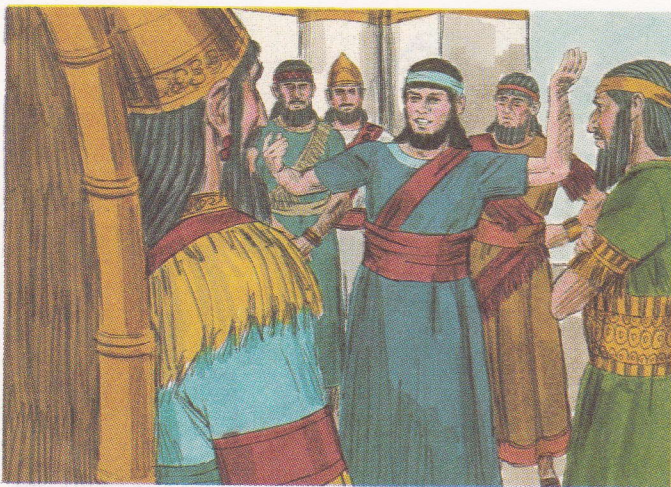
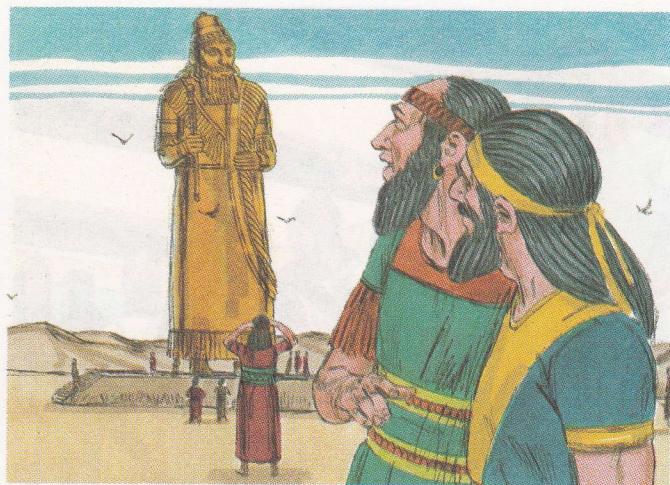


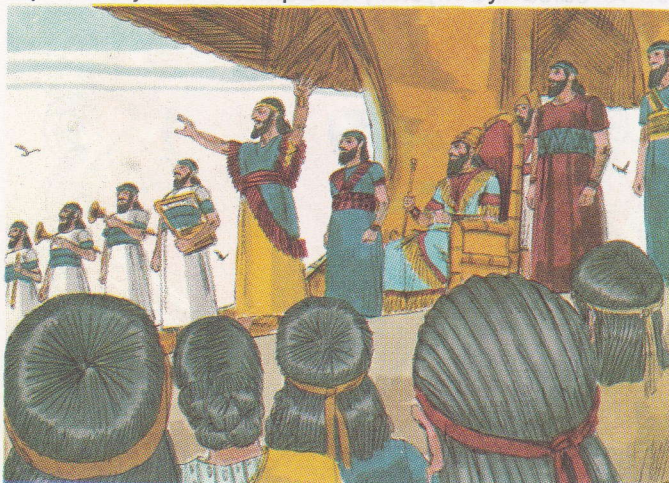
# The Fiery Furnace



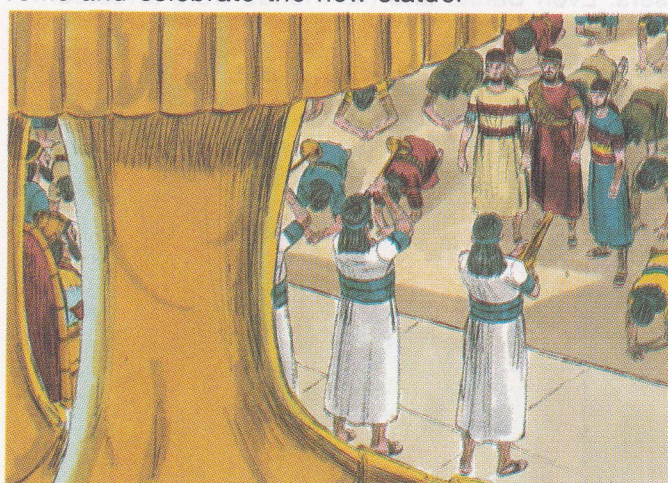
**1** After Daniel explained Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the king made him head of all the royal advisers. He also appointed Daniel's three friends to important jobs in the province of Babylon.



**2** Nebuchadnezzar later made a statue of gold. It was huge — about ninety feet high! He set it up in the plain of Dura and ordered all his officials to come and celebrate the new statue.



**3** At the ceremony a servant announced, "The king commands that when the music begins, everyone must bow down and worship the statue. Anyone who does not will be thrown into a furnace."



**4** So when they heard the sound of the musical instruments, all the officials of the empire bowed down and worshiped the golden statue. That is, all but Daniel's three friends.

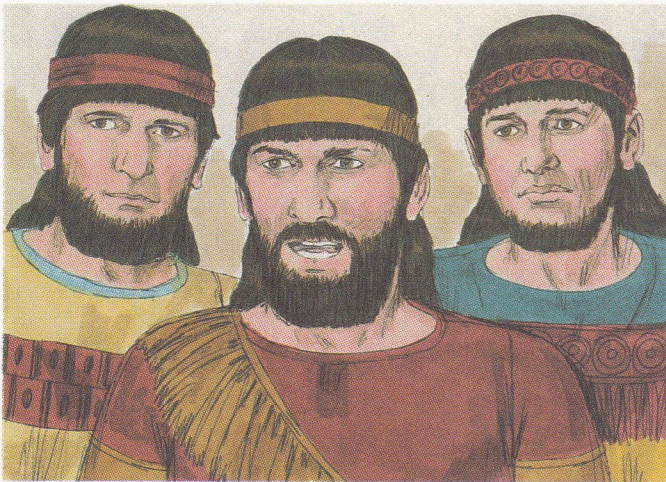


**5** Certain people who hated the Jews told the king, "The three friends of Daniel—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—are disobeying you. They do not worship your statue as you ordered."



**6** The king was terribly angry. He called for the three Jews and said, "If you don't bow down, you will be thrown into the furnace right now. There is no god who can save you."

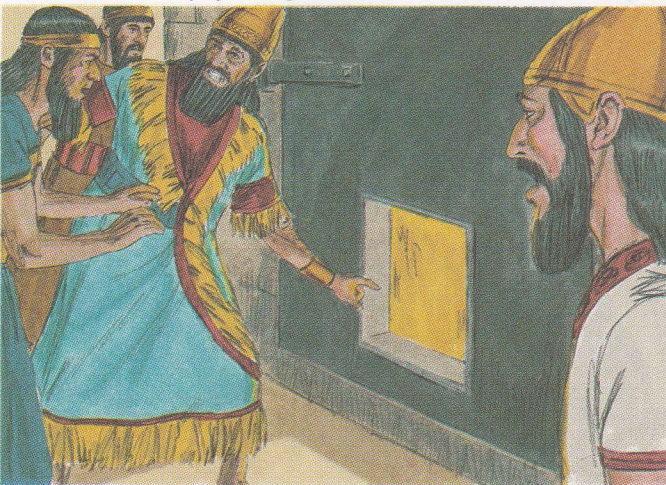




**7** They replied, "We won't try to defend ourselves. If the God we serve is able to save us from the furnace, he will. But even if he doesn't, we will not worship your god or bow to the statue."



**8** The angry king ordered that the furnace be made seven times hotter than usual. Then they tied up Daniel's three friends and threw them, clothes and all, into the fiery furnace.



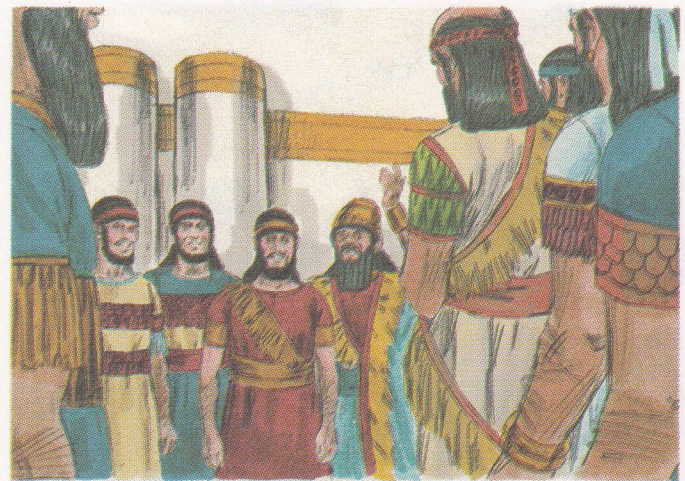
**9** After a while, the king suddenly leaped to his feet in amazement. He said, "Didn't you throw in *three* men? Why do I see *four* walking around in the fire? The fourth one looks like a god!"



**10** Then the king shouted, "Come out!" and out of the furnace came the three Jews. They were not hurt at all by the fire! Not even their clothes were burned!



**11** The king said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue these men who serve and trust him. They risked death rather than worship another god!"



**12** "From now on, anyone who says anything bad about their God shall be torn apart. No other god can rescue like this!" Then he gave Daniel's friends even more important jobs.