



## The Blazing Fire

From Daniel 3

Written and Illustrated by Jennifer Cheatham

King Nebuchadnezzar



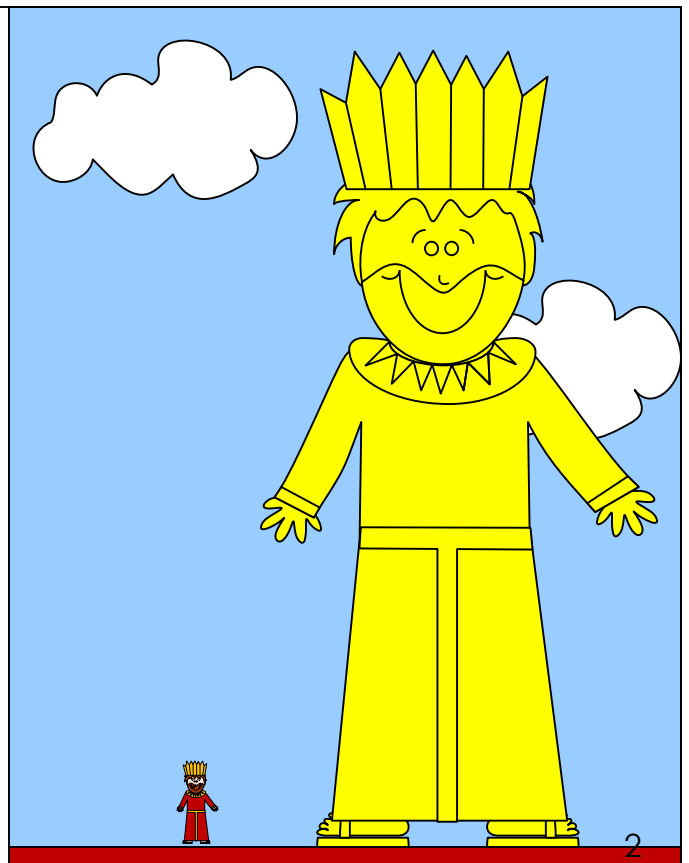
made a gold statue. It was



90 feet tall and 9 feet wide.

He put it up on the plain of

Dura in the town of Babylon.



# New Words

Nubuchadnezzar



statue



music



Shadrach



Meshach



Abed-nego



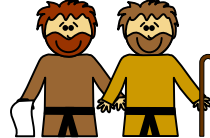
clothes



angel





servants



houses



1

Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent word for all the important  
  
people in the land to come to the dedication of the statue  
that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. All the important  
  
people got together for the dedication and stood in front  
of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.



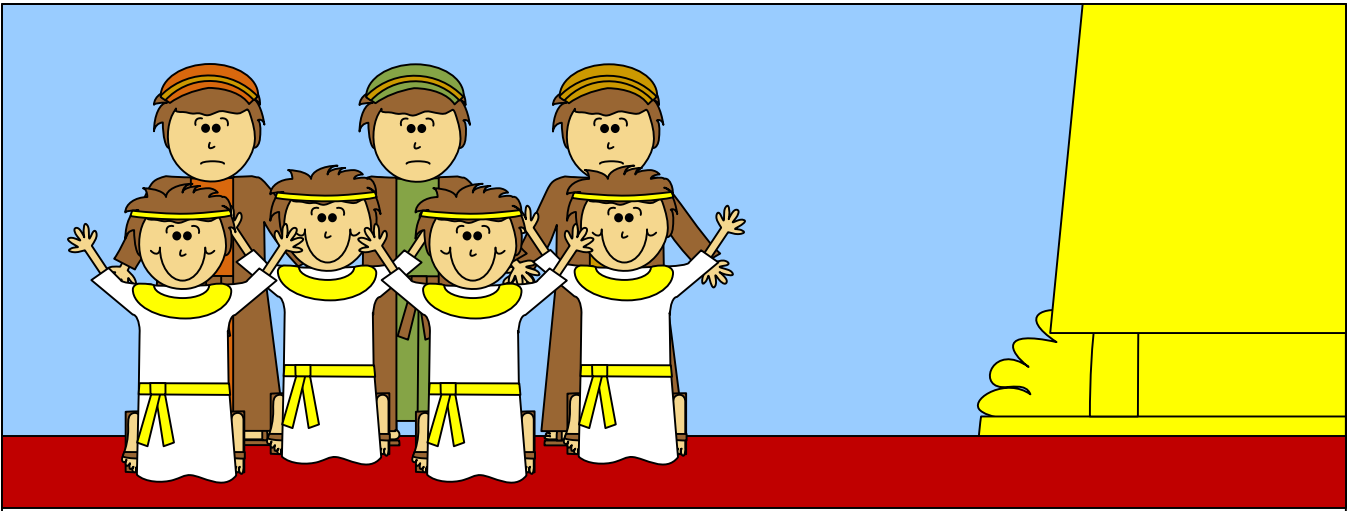
3

Then the messenger loudly said, "There is a new rule for you. When you hear the music, everyone must fall down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Those who do not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing fire right then."



Some men went to the king and said, "O king, live forever! You, O king, have said that every man who hears the music is to fall down and worship the gold statue. But those who do not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing fire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, did not do what you said. They do not follow your gods or worship the gold statue which you have set up."





So then, when all the people heard the music, everyone

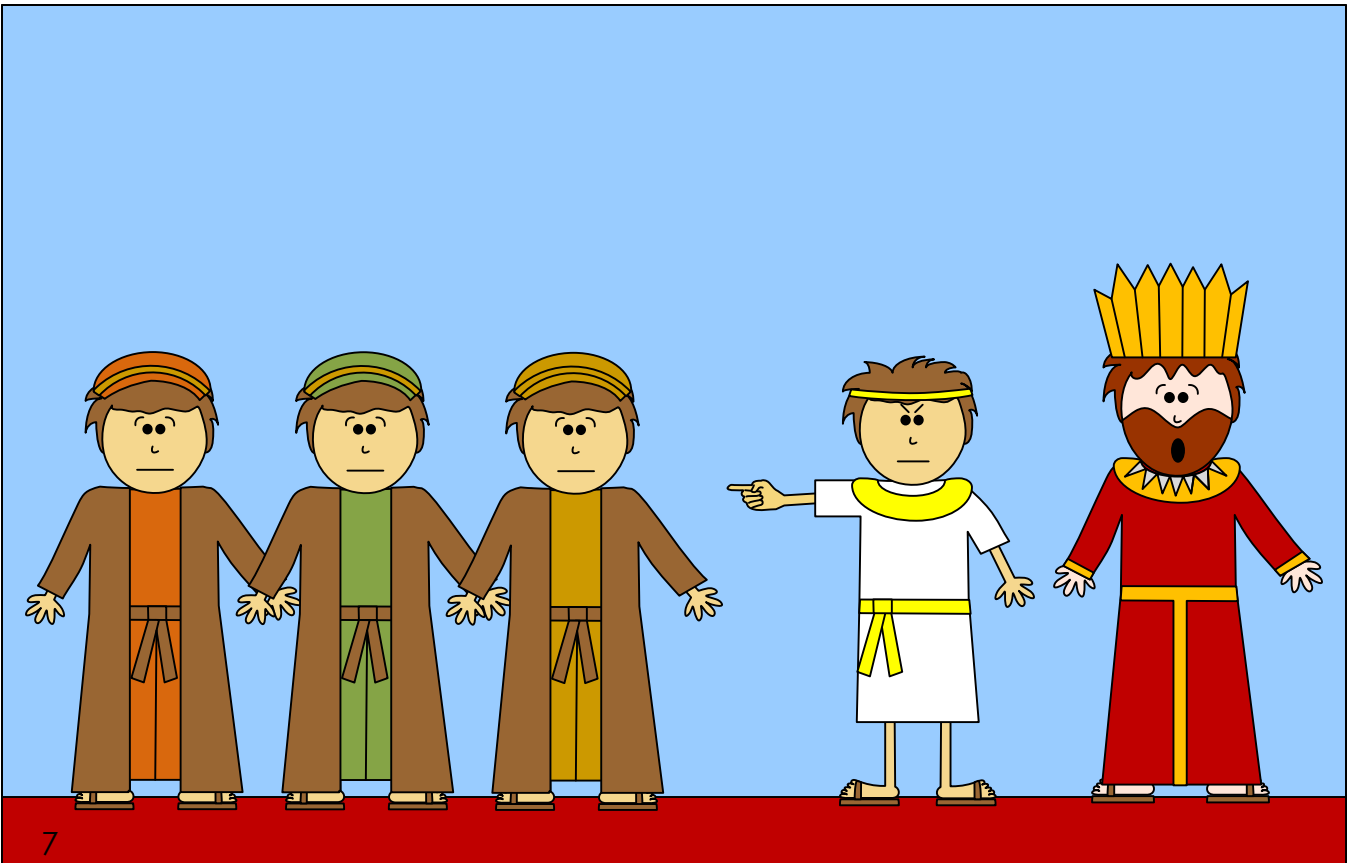


fell down and worshiped the gold statue that King



Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

5



7

Then Nebuchadnezzar got very mad and told men to bring him



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Nebuchadnezzar asked



them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, that you do



not follow my gods or worship the gold statue that I have set up? If

you are ready, when you hear the music, fall down and worship the



statue that I have made and it will be ok. But if you do not worship



the statue, you will be thrown into the blazing fire. And what god is



there who can save you out of my hands?"

Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and he made



a face at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He said



to heat the fire seven times more than it was usually

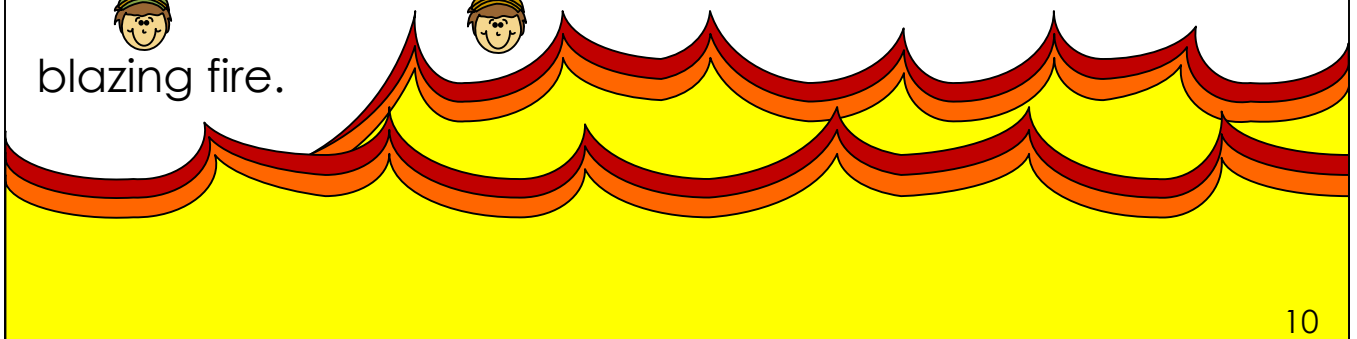
heated. He told some strong men to tie up Shadrach,



Meshach, and Abed-nego in order to throw them into the



blazing fire.



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego said to the king, “O



Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to say anything about



this. If we are thrown in the fire, our God whom we serve can save us, and He will save us from your hand, O king.

But even if He does not, be sure you know, O king, that we are not going to follow your gods or worship the gold statue that you have set up.

9



Then these men were tied up in their pants, their coats, their hats, and their other clothes, and were thrown into the



blazing fire. The king wanted them thrown in the fire so fast, and the fire was so hot, that the flames killed the men who took Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego to the fire.

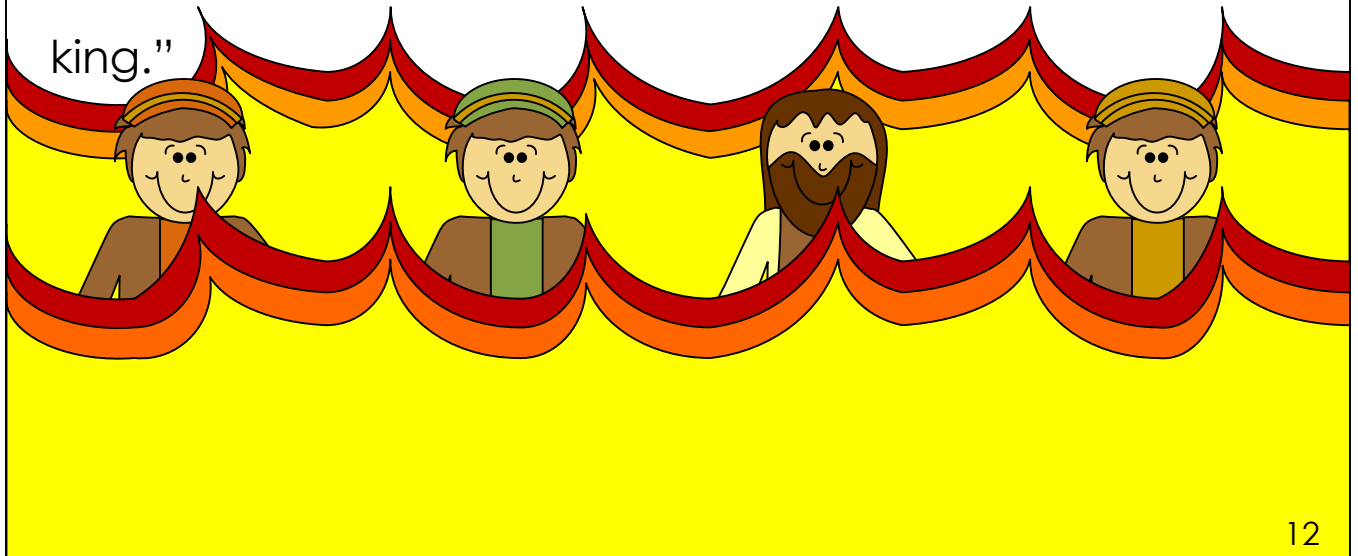


Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego fell into the blazing

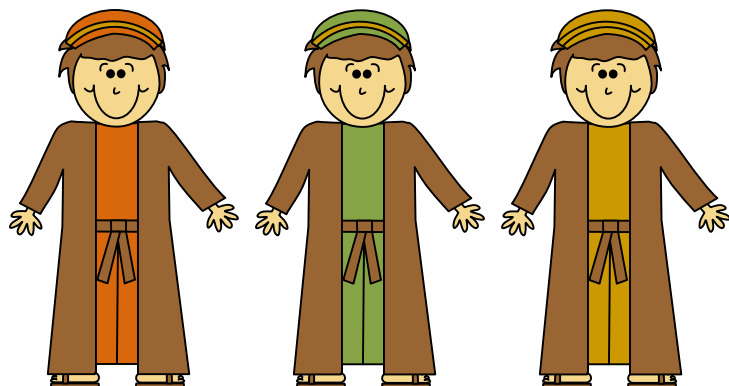


fire still tied up.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar could not believe what he saw! He jumped up out of his seat! He said to his helpers, "Didn't we put three men in the fire?" They said, "Yes, O king."



Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego came out of the fire. The important people in the town came and saw that the fire did not hurt the men at all! Their hair was not hurt. Their clothes were not messed up! They did not even smell like a fire!



He said, "Look! I see four men not tied up and walking around in the fire and they are not being hurt! The fourth man looks like a son of the gods!" Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the blazing fire. He said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!"

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King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who sent His angel and saved His servants who trusted in Him. They did not follow my rule. They did not follow or worship any god but their God, even when they could have been hurt. So now I say that anyone that says anything bad about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego will be killed and their houses will be messed up. There is no other god who can save people like this."

15



Then the king made Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego  
have a good life in Babylon.

