



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Courageous Faith Leads to Believing

January 14, 2018

Daniel 3:19-28

“Then Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘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’” (Daniel 3:28).

After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down before the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had made, he had them thrown into a fiery furnace. Then, King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement, because he saw one like a son of the gods walking with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the flames of the furnace. He called to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego for them to come out of the furnace, and they walked out without even the smell of smoke on their clothing. From this miracle, King Nebuchadnezzar concluded that their God was the Most High God. Furthermore, King Nebuchadnezzar came to believe that their God was worthy of his praise. Because God’s servants were willing to defy King Nebuchadnezzar, even after he had threatened them and said no god could deliver them from his hands, and because God delivered them, he acknowledged the greatness of God. King Nebuchadnezzar could not imagine anyone would be willing to give up their lives rather than serve or make the appearance of worshiping his statue to save themselves. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego trusted in God alone. They knew God would save them from death in this life or save them from death by taking them to heaven. For good reasons God worked a miracle in their behalf and in behalf of all His people, for King Nebuchadnezzar made a law that anyone could worship God anywhere in his kingdom without fear of persecution.

Thinking Further

1. What did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to do? (see Daniel 3:17-18)

2. What did Nebuchadnezzar say and do when they refused to obey him?

3. What did Nebuchadnezzar see in the furnace?

4. What title did Nebuchadnezzar use for God? What do you think that title might have meant to him?

5. Did God have good reasons for saving Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace? What are some of the good things that came from their experience?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.
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