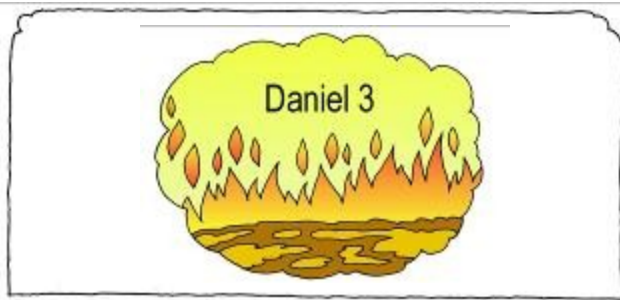


SHADRACH Meshach and Abednego

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By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther



Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose to do the right thing, even when they were the only ones honouring and trusting God and it was hard to do.



King Nebuchadnezzar made a new rule. "Everyone must bow down and pray to a big gold statue I have made. It will be your God," said the king.



Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would NOT bow to the big gold statue. "We bow and pray ONLY to God," they said, "not to a statue a man has made."



The king was VERY angry and made another rule. "These men will be thrown into a VERY hot fire," he said. "This will make them change their mind."



"The soldiers made the fire VERY hot. The three men prayed and asked God to help them. They would not bow down to statues."



The soldiers threw the men into the fire. It was very hot, but it didn't burn them! God was looking after them! Their clothes didn't even smell of smoke.



The King looked into the fire and saw God's angel looking after the men. He knew a statue could never do that. Then the King believed in God.



Then the King made a new rule. "These men worship the true and living God," he said. "Everyone in my kingdom must pray to God and not to statues."