

the great men of the land (v. 3), to see the image placed for worship, vs. 4-6.

*A Call to Worship*—Listen to the call to worship,—the cornet, the flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music. See the people, wherever they happen to be, fall down on their knees at the sound and worship the golden image which Nebuchadnezzar had set up. But look! Here and there is one who does not bow the knee. Ah! yes, these are Jews, servants of the true God. At once some of the heathen people go to the king to complain that all are not obeying his orders, vs. 8-12. Did I tell you that the king had put Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into very high offices in Babylon, and the heathen people were angry that these stranger young men should be placed over them (see ch. 2 : 48, 49)? How glad they are of the chance of making trouble for them!

*The Angry King*—The king is very angry when he hears that the three Hebrews will not obey his orders. "Bring them to me", he commands in anger. Here they stand before the king (three strokes). The king gives them a command, vs. 13-15.

*Faithful to God*—Listen to the brave Hebrews! They fear no one but their God. "He is able to deliver us. We will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

*Cruel Punishment*—Tell of the awful punishment that Nebuchadnezzar caused to be made ready for them. The strongest men of his army were ordered to bind them and cast them into a burning fiery furnace, vs. 19-23. It may be best not to make the picture too vivid for the little ones, just sufficient to make them realize the danger. (Outline a furnace door showing flames behind it into which the three Hebrews were cast.)

*A Helper Sent*—The king looks into the furnace. What does he see? The three Hebrews alive and unharmed, and with them is a fourth. Yes, a helper had come to them in their danger, and even the fire had no power to harm them then, vs. 24-27.

Nebuchadnezzar became even a greater friend to Daniel and his companions than before (vs. 28-30), and acknowledged the power of God (see ch. 4 : 37).

*A Lesson for Us*—Never consent to do wrong. God will help you, if you are trying to obey Him.

*Repeat*—Verse 3 of Hymn 534, Book of Praise :

"Though the way may dark appear,

We will follow Jesus;

He will make our pathway clear;

We will follow Jesus."

*Something to Think About*—I should not be afraid.

#### FROM THE PLATFORM

## THE VICTIMS ORS

Print on the blackboard, THE VICTIMS. Ask who in the Lesson might be called by this title. The scholars will readily answer : "The three Hebrews who were cast into the fiery furnace." Question out what led to this dreadful doom,—the command of King Nebuchadnezzar to worship the golden image which he had set up, the refusal of the three Hebrews to obey the royal command, and the king's furious command. Now, ask about the wonderful sight which the king saw in the furnace,—the three men who had been cast bound into the fire walking free and unhurt, and beside them a fourth (Who was this?). Have the scholars give the details of vs. 24-28. What shall we call these victims now? A little questioning will get the answer, VICTORS (Print), and lead up to the point to be pressed home, that those who trust in God, and whom God helps, are sure to conquer (see Golden Text).