

## THE HEBREWS IN THE FIERY FURNACE

## Lesson III.

Daniel 3 : 14-28—Memory Verses, 16-18

July 16, 1899

14 Neb'uchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it true*, O Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sack-but, psaltery, and dulcimer and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego, answered and said to the king, O Neb'uchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that [we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19 Then was Neb'uchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego: *therefore* he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that *were* in his army to bind Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego.

23 And these three men, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Neb'uchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26 Then Neb'uchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Then Neb'uchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

When Daniel's three brave friends had become men, Nebuchadnezzar was still king and he had been making a great golden idol.

When it was all finished, he set a day for the people to come and worship it. He said, "I will tell the band when to play, and if anyone will not fall down on his knees when the music begins, I will have that man put into a blazing oven and burnt up."

So the princes and the rulers and the crowds of people were all careful to do exactly what the king said, except Daniel's three friends. They heard the band but

they did not fall down and worship the idol.

Some one went straight and told the king and the king sent to have them brought to him at once. He was very angry indeed and called to his servants to see that the furnace was hot.

But the three men only said, "Our God whom we serve is able to take care of us. He is stronger than the king himself and because we are His servants we will never fall down before the idol or pray to heathen gods." Then Nebuchadnezzar in his fury told his strongest soldiers to throw them