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O P D C J L W O F U A B F O K Y N D D G
 J P Z A I P Q B F J Y C O M K M U F W O
 Q R Z L C U O H T S O N O F G O D B T V
 S B P O N T N G Q K Q D J J R A D E L S
 P O O I T E I F E S U W W H C A H S E M
 M S W Z H N B V H N Q K S K E S L H A P
 B L H M C S T U A M D I S G N V U T O T
 B K Q F J D R I C J T E I H C Y F L A W
 O H O T G R A O R H H E B G V K L U P B
 H W I M F O L O W E A P E A C W Y W A H
 S F L Q W I L N U T V D A G C L H Q D J
 S V U S Y S R D U A T I N D A W M N Y Y
 R J H R J A H E T A T I L E H M O I S K
 V B T Q N Z L A T U R Y G E Z W I S M P
 N W Y V D A Z H D E R B W V D Z I V U G
 G E O O T E C I D R W B A B R Z A U J K
 D L G P N D Z E D N A P F G E O R R S G
 P V A B A M N U Q Q P C W C M A F U E P
 K S E R V E N I C B N P H Z Q K Y A J S
 S D V Q S D K A B N K Y T H N U L D M O

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|-----------|---------|----------------|------------|
| ABED-NEGO | FURNACE | IMAGE | SHADRACH |
| BIND | GOD | MESHACH | SON OF GOD |
| DELIVER | GOLD | SERVE | WORSHIP |
| FIRE | HOT | NEBUCHADNEZZAR | |

The Fiery Furnace

By Paul Dallgas-Frey



King Nebuchadnezzar was at it again.

This time he had a giant statue set up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. It was made of gold, and taller than a nine story building.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar called all his royal officials - the satraps, the prefects, the magistrates, the treasurers, judges and counselors, and all the officials of the provinces - to come to the dedication of the golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up in the plain of Dura.

A herald announced in a loud voice, "People of all nations, races, and languages! When you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments, you are commanded to bow down and worship the golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar has set up in the plain of Dura. Whoever hears the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments, and does not fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up in the plain of Dura - they shall be thrown into the fiery furnace."

And so, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments the people of all nations, races and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up in the plain of Dura.

All except Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

They worshipped God alone.

One day under the hot sun, the king's magicians, sorcerers and wisemen saw that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not fall down and worship the golden statue (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were the Babylonian names King Nebuchadnezzar had given Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah).

They were jealous of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego because they knew that God was with them. This was a perfect chance to get rid of them.

And so the magicians, sorcerers and wisemen reported to the King.

They said, "O Great and Mighty King, may you live for ever! You have made a decree that whenever people of all nations, races, and languages hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments they are to fall down and worship the golden statue you have set up in the plain of Dura. And whoever hears the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments, and does NOT fall down and worship the golden statue you have set up in the plain of Dura shall be thrown into the fiery furnace."

"Yes, this is so," said the king.

"Your Majesty," said the magicians, sorcerers and wisemen, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not worship the golden statue you have set up in the plain of Dura."

King Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage.

He ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought immediately before him.

Continued next time ...