

# Week 25 Parent Sheet: Fiery Furnace

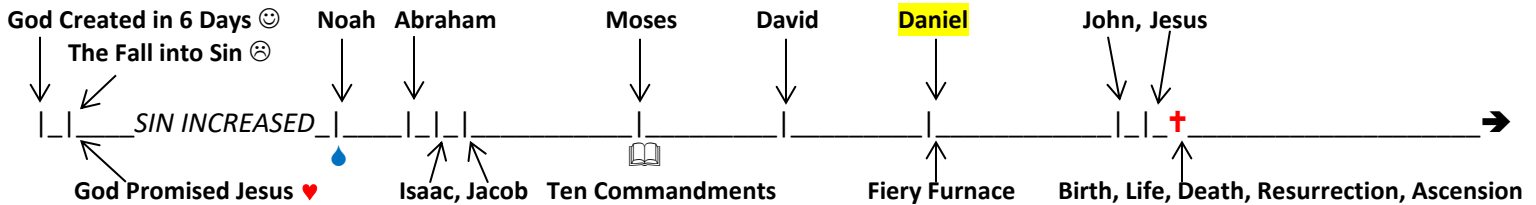
## Daniel 3 NIV

*As the LORD saved the men from the furnace, so He has saved us from eternal punishment through Jesus!*

Bethlehem Family Childcare – Wednesdays: Story Time (9:30-10:00) and Bible Time (10:00-10:30)

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The Old Testament covers approximately 4,000 years; this timeline shows some key events:



### Previous history:

1. Because the southern kingdom was disobedient, the LORD allowed the Babylonians to conquer them.
2. In the process the king of Babylon gave this order: "...bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility--<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace" (Dan. 1:3-4). // Among those young men were the ones thrown into the furnace.

### Fiery Furnace:

1. **The Gathering:** <sup>1</sup>King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup> He then summoned... [all the important people in his kingdom to attend the dedication].
2. **The Command:** <sup>4</sup> Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "...<sup>5</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold...<sup>6</sup> Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."<sup>7</sup> Therefore... [almost everyone fell down].
3. **The Jealousy:** <sup>8</sup> At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup> They said to King Nebuchadnezzar... <sup>12</sup> "...there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon-- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego--who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold..."
4. **Their Statement of Faith:** <sup>13</sup> Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup> and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ...<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the

blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king...."

5. **The King Is Very Angry:** <sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious... He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual <sup>20</sup> and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup> So these men... were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup> The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup> and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.
6. **The King Is Amazed:** <sup>24</sup> [He] leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." <sup>25</sup> He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." <sup>26</sup> Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! ..." So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, <sup>27</sup> and [many important people] ...saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies... and there was no smell of fire on them.
7. **The King Is Repentant:** <sup>28</sup> [He] 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. <sup>29</sup> Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against [their] God... be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

### Thoughts:

1. For the three men, their relationship with God was more important than their lives!
2. As they trusted in God and He saved them, so God is calling everyone to trust in Jesus for eternal life!