

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Biography

Shadrach (Hananiah), Meshach (Mishael), and Abednego (Azariah) were young men taken from Israel to Babylon along with Daniel. They were promoted to administrators over the province of Babylon after Daniel correctly interpreted the king's dream. When King Nebuchadnezzar set up an image of gold and commanded his subjects to worship it, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose to follow God's law and refused to worship the image of gold. When Nebuchadnezzar found out, he was furious with rage and gave them one more chance to worship his image. When they again refused, they were thrown into the fiery furnace. The king then saw them walking around in the furnace with another man who looked like the Son of God. He called out to them and they left the furnace, not a hair on their head was singed and they did not even smell like smoke. God rescued them from the furnace and as a result, Nebuchadnezzar promoted them and gave praise to God.¹

Strengths/Accomplishments

- Along with Daniel refused to eat from the king's table.
- Unwilling to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's image even in the face of death.
- Walked with the Angel of the Lord in the fiery furnace.

Life Lessons

- It is important to stand with others with whom we share convictions.
- God can be trusted and is faithful to those who put their faith in Him.²

¹ Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary. (1995)Nashville: T. Nelson.

² Life Application Bible. (1988)Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Verses of Note

Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 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. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.' (NIV)