

**THEY WOULD NOT BEND, BOW OR BURN**  
**Daniel 1:1-7**

**Introduction:**

1. In 605 BC the army of Babylon swept into Judah.
  - a. Jerusalem was besieged and conquered.
  - b. King Jehoiakim was led in chains to Babylon.
  - c. Young men of noble blood were torn from their families and dragged to Babylon.
  - d. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
  
2. They were trained for the service of King Nebuchadnezzar.
  - a. Daniel interpreted the king's dream and was promoted.
  - b. He requested his friends be promoted as well.
  - c. They became governors over the province of Babylon.
  - d. Their names were changed to Shadrach, Mesheck, and Abednego.

**Discussion:**

- I. THE KING MADE A GREAT IMAGE (Dan. 3).
  - A. The image was made of gold.
    1. It was 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide.
    2. Nebuchadnezzar had seen a great image in his dream.
      - a. The head of gold was his kingdom (Dan. 2:38).
      - b. Perhaps the image he made was of himself?
  - B. The king summoned his officials to the dedication of his image.
    1. As governors, Shadrach, Mesheck, and Abednego came.
    2. Since Daniel was not present, he was likely away on the king's business.
    3. At the sound of music, all were to bow before the image.
    4. Any who refused would be cast into a fiery furnace.
  
- II. SHADRACH, MESHECK AND ABEDNEGO SERVED THE TRUE GOD.
  - A. God commanded, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Ex. 20:3).
    1. He also commanded: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image" (Ex. 20:4).
    2. Because they had not heeded these commands, God had allowed His people to be taken captive by Babylon.
  - B. Shadrach, Mesheck, and Abednego had three choices:
    1. They could bow to the image, but this would anger God.

2. They could pretend to bow down, but this would be hypocritical and God would know.
3. They could refuse to bow down, but they would die.

### **III. SHADRACH, MESHECK, AND ABEDNEGO STOOD UP FOR GOD.**

#### **A. They would not bend!**

1. They refused to compromise in any way!
2. They feared God more than they feared man (Mt. 10:28).

#### **B. They would not bow!**

1. The Chaldeans told the king they had not obeyed.
2. The king “in rage and fury” commanded they be brought.
3. He gave them a second chance to worship his image.
4. They said: “Our God is able to deliver us, but if He chooses not to, we still will not bow to your image” (Dan. 3:17, 18).

#### **C. They would not burn!**

1. The king commanded the furnace be heated 7 times hotter.
2. Shadrach, Mesheck, and Abednego were bound.
3. The king’s mightiest men threw them into the furnace.
4. The flames consumed the warriors as they threw them in.
5. The king watched to see them burn.
  - a. He saw them in the fire walking about unharmed.
  - b. He saw a fourth man among them.
6. The king respectfully requested they come out of the fire.
  - a. He now addressed them as “servants of the Most High God.”
  - b. They were not singed, burned or smelled like fire.
7. The king issued a decree that no one must say anything against the God of Shadrach, Mesheck, and Abednego.

### **Conclusion:**

1. **Christians must stand up for Jesus!**
  - a. No man can serve two masters (Mt. 6:24).
  - b. If we deny Him, He will deny us (Mt. 10:33).
  - c. We must count the cost of being His disciples (Lk. 14:25-35).
  - d. Persecutions will come to Christians (2 Tim. 3:12; Acts 14:22).
2. **Shadrach, Mesheck, and Abednego would not bend, bow, or burn.**
3. **If we are faithful to the Lord, He will give us everlasting life.**
4. **Will you stand up for Jesus (Jno. 8:24; Lu. 13:5; Mt. 10:33; Mk. 16:16)?**

