



## **BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.**

[www.bibleradio.org.au](http://www.bibleradio.org.au)

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1572 ~ Condemned to the Fiery Furnace.**

---

*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

A woman lived in a country where the national religion was extremely hostile to Christianity. When she became a Christian, the woman was afraid her husband would beat her, so she never told him about her decision. Somehow, she obtained a Bible. When the husband wasn't home, the woman would bring it out and read. Her daughter also became a Christian. The woman hid her Bible under her daughter's clothes but one day, she thought this place was no longer safe and instead, put it in the cold stove oven.

Unexpectedly, her husband arrived home with a fish. He prepared it and put it in the oven to cook. In anguish, both mother and daughter watched but felt unable to intervene and retrieve the Bible. When the fish was cooked, the husband took it out and ate it.

As soon as he left the house again, the women rushed to the oven expecting to pull out the ashes. But to their surprise and joy, the Bible was still intact. The outside cover was damaged but the inside pages were completely unharmed.

In today's Bible Adventure, God preserved the lives of the three young Hebrew men who remained true to Him when they faced extreme pressure to follow everyone else into sin. Not even a single hair on their heads was harmed after being pushed into in a red-hot furnace fire that killed the soldiers who'd thrown them in.

King Nebuchadnezzar learnt a valuable lesson. Although he had pretended to be a new god worthy of praise in front of his nation, Nebuchadnezzar instead found he was amazed with the real power displayed by the God of heaven. This obvious deed of care shown by God for three rebel slaves caused the king to humble himself. He and the people saw a miracle with their very own eyes that the king couldn't explain.

What god can be compared with such an awesome God as this? When our Creator God made the universe, He made it out of nothing. In John's Gospel, Chapter 1, we are taught that all things were made and came into existence through God and without Him, not even one thing was made that has come into being. There were no planets of bubbling mud just drifting around waiting for 'something' to happen.

Not only did God bring the universe into existence, He established His laws so that everything would function in a good and orderly way. Most people have heard of the law of gravity. Even in these times, scientists don't completely understand gravity. If gravity on earth was much weaker than it is, we might climb to a mountain top and fly off into space. We could do this on the moon, which has no gravity at all. But if the earth's gravity were somewhat stronger than it is, we'd even find it hard just to walk along the street.

God has balanced His laws to make things work together for the common good. There is no way these laws could have evolved and are just gradually getting stronger and stronger. In fact, as the sun is shrinking, the expected opposite is happening and gravity is in fact, getting slightly weaker on earth.

In His mercy, God made a giant planet of gas 318 times larger than the earth. This planet is called Jupiter and it's the largest planet in our solar system. Jupiter has a much stronger gravity pull than the earth. When massive objects that could do great harm to earth come through our solar system, Jupiter sucks them into its orbit so they can do us no damage. Massive planets of gas like Jupiter are rare in the universe but God's hand of protection for the earth is no coincidence.

What an awesome God we worship! When you consider that scientists understand there to be at least a billion stars in space, how great and incomparable is our God to anyone else! What utter foolishness it was for King Nebuchadnezzar to have men make a statue 90-feet high and 9-feet wide, cover it with gold and call it a god! The contrast between the all-knowing God of heaven and Nebuchadnezzar's lifeless blob of metal couldn't be any greater.

When the three Hebrew slaves refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's image and his gods, they made it quite clear to the king that their God could save them from the burning furnace if He wanted to. But doing so was God's choice. If He chose not to save them, they would still be true to Him. That was their total commitment to Him and His plans. If God is for us, we need not fear what people can do to us. God will deliver us, either from death or in death itself.

If the slaves were tempted to agree to the king's request to save their lives, they overcame such a thought. They had a long time to consider what they would do as they walked to the plain of Dura. Temptation comes to everyone. It is how we deal with it that matters.

A well-known writer summed up the attitude of millions of people when he said, "I can resist anything except temptation." Unfortunately, 'resisting temptation' has gone out of style and 'doing what comes naturally' is the "in" thing. The Lord Jesus told His disciples in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 26, to "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." We also need to avoid tempting situations and people.

The devil has less power than you think. He can tempt you to do wrong but he cannot force you to do so. You can resist the devil as Jesus did by responding to the lies of the tempter with the truth of God's Word.

It didn't matter how hot Nebuchadnezzar made the furnace. The fire was going to destroy all life throw into it, and very quickly too. Those who suffer for Christ have His presence in their sufferings. What God did for these three men helped the Jews to keep their religion while in captivity and to cure them of idolatry.

The example of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego after they came out of the furnace made a big impact on all the other people gathered there that day. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the three men as servants of the Most High God, a God who was able to deliver them out of the king's own hand. Nebuchadnezzar issued a decree that no one was to speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego or they'd be killed.

The Lord Jesus said in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 10: "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." All persecutors of Christians, if they don't turn to the Lord before they die, will suffer for their evil deeds for eternity. The Apostle Paul caused great harm to the early church before he became a believer in the Lord Jesus. He turned away from his bad deeds and asked for forgiveness. You can do this too if you are not already yet one of His faithful followers.

---

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

---

That was Guy Penrod singing "Be Strong and Take Heart."

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

---

< END OF SCRIPT >

---