

The Fiery Furnace
by Mary Evelyn McCurdy

Cast:

Herald
King Nebuchadnezzar
Shadrach
Meshach
Abednego
Officials (at least five)
Musicians (variable number, no lines)
Flames (variable number, no lines)

No set is required for this simple skit. The only props needed are some lengths of red, yellow, and orange ribbon that the flames can wave to look like fire. If desired, real ropes can be used to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Otherwise, the officials can pretend to tie them up. Costumes can be as simple or elaborate as you like. The king should have a crown to differentiate him from the other characters. Otherwise simple Bible costumes will suffice. The flames can wear solid white robes to make their flames stand out.

(Herald enters.)

HERALD: Hear ye, hear ye! King Nebuchadnezzar hereby summons all governors, treasurers, judges, and officials to come to the dedication of the golden statue he has set up!

(Officials gather. Musicians gather.)

HERALD: People of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: As soon as you hear the sound of the instruments, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a fiery furnace!

(Musicians blow on invisible instruments. All bow down except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. King enters. Officials 1 and 2 go to the king.)

OFFICIALS 1 and 2: O, King, may you live forever!

OFFICIAL 1: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have payed no attention to your words!

OFFICIAL 2: They have refused to bow down to your statue!

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR: What? Bring them here at once!

(Officials 1 and 2 go get Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and take them to the king.)

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Is it true that you refuse to obey me? I'm going to give you one more chance. As soon as you hear the sound of the instruments, if you are ready to bow down, very good. If not, you will be thrown immediately into the fiery furnace! Then what god will be able to rescue you?

SHADRACH: God is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace.

MESHACH: But even if He doesn't, we will not worship your statue.

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Fine, then! Have it your way! Heat the furnace seven times hotter than usual! Tie them up! Throw them in!

(Flames enter and begin to wave their ribbons. Officials 1 and 2 tie up the men and throw them into the flames. Officials 1 and 2 cry out and fall down dead beside the furnace. Other officials and musicians run to see what is happening. Angel enters and walks around with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. King and remaining officials look into the furnace.)

OFFICIAL 3: The furnace is so hot it killed your men!

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Didn't they throw three men into the furnace?

OFFICIALS: Yes, your majesty!

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Look! I see four men walking around in the fire! They aren't tied up and they aren't hurt! And the fourth looks like a son of the gods! Shadrach! Meshach! Abednego! Come out!

OFFICIAL 3: Their clothes are not burned!

OFFICIAL 4: Their hair is not even singed!

OFFICIAL 5: They don't even smell like fire!

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who sent His angel and rescued His servants! They trusted in Him and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that anyone who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego must die, for no other god can save in this way!

Source: ChristianMusicalTheatre.com

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