

The Fiery Furnace
Audience Participation
By Lynne M. Ogren

Audience parts:

- **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** “Bless you”
(hh, hh) is sucked in like you are getting ready to sneeze
- The satraps, the prefects, the governors and counselors, the treasurers, the justices and all officials of the provinces Slap, clap, snap, clap in rhythm
- *The sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble*
Rhythm instruments distributed to play (Narrator directs like an orchestra leader)
- THE FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE Baptist preacher voice

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be assigned parts to read their spoken lines. Whenever their names are listed, they will strike a pose or make a facial expression to draw attention to their character.

#####

King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ²Then **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** sent for the satraps, the prefects, the governors and counselors, the treasurers, the justices and all officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** had set up.

³So the satraps, the prefects, the governors and counselors, the treasurers, the justices and all officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** had set up. When they were standing before the statue that **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** had set up, ⁴the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear *the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble*, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE." ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard *the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble*, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden statue that **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** had set up.

⁸Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹They said to **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar**, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears *the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble*, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹and whoever does not fall

down and worship shall be thrown into A FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹³Then **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴ **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear *the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble* to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into A FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king,

Shadrach "O **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar**, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter.

Meshach If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from THE FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us.

Abednego But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹⁹Then **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered THE FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE heated up seven times more than was customary, ²⁰and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into THE FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE. ²¹So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into THE FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE.

²²Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into THE FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE.

²⁴Then **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his satrap, the prefects, the governors and counselors, the treasurers, the justices and all officials of the provinces, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." ²⁵He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and

they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." ²⁶ **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** then approached the door of THE FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors and counselors, the treasurers, the justices and all officials of the provinces gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸ **King (hh, hh) Nebuchadnezzar** said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

Congregational Song: ELW 732 "Earth and All Stars" vv. 1, 2 5
Has similar text to *Song of the Three*