

11. Daniel's friends in the fire

The king of Babylon made a big statue of gold. The statue was 27 metres high and 2.7 metres wide. Many people were called to the dedication of the statue. The king gave the following command: "When the music starts to play everyone must fall down and worship the statue that I have set up! Whoever does not obey will be thrown into a big fire!"

When Daniel's three friends heard the king's command they immediately thought of God's command. God said, "You shall not worship anything or anyone except me, because I am the only God." What shall they do? When the music started to play, all the people immediately fell down and worshipped the statue. They were very afraid of the king. But Daniel's friends decided to obey God. They remained standing up.

The three young men were taken to the king and he was furious when he heard that they did not obey his command. He said, "I will give you one more chance. If you fall down now and worship the statue, you can go free, but if you don't you will be thrown into a big pool of fire!" Daniel's friends said, "We will not worship this statue. God can save us from your fire." The three young men were immediately tied up and thrown into the big pool of fire. The fire was so hot that the soldiers who threw them in, died. Then something very amazing happened...

That same day the king gave another command. He said, "No-one may say anything against the God of these three men, because no other god can save in this way."

Comprehension

1. What happened when Daniel's friends were thrown into the fire?
2. Why did the three men refuse to worship the statue?
3. Why were they not afraid of the king?



Vocabulary

statue	รูปปั้น	There is a statue of King Rama IV on a hill near Prachuap.
dedication	การอุทิศ	We saw the dedication of the new ship on television.
command	คำสั่ง	In the army, the general's wish is everybody else's command.
fall down and worship	กราบไหว้	If we meet God the best thing to do is to fall down and worship.
immediately	ทันที	Immediately after we came home we went to buy ice cream.
furious	โกรธจัด	He was furious when someone stole his money.
chance	โอกาส	Go while you have the chance.
amazing	น่าประหลาดใจ	Thailand is truly amazing!

The Bible says

"This is what the Lord says -
I am the first and I am the last;
apart from me there is no God."

พระเจ้าจอมโยธาตรัสตั้งนี้ว่า
"เราเป็นผู้ต้นและเราเป็นผู้ปลาย
นอกจากเราแล้วไม่มีพระเจ้า"