

Written by: Edward Hughes

Illustrated by: Jonathan Hay

Adapted by: Mary-Anne S.

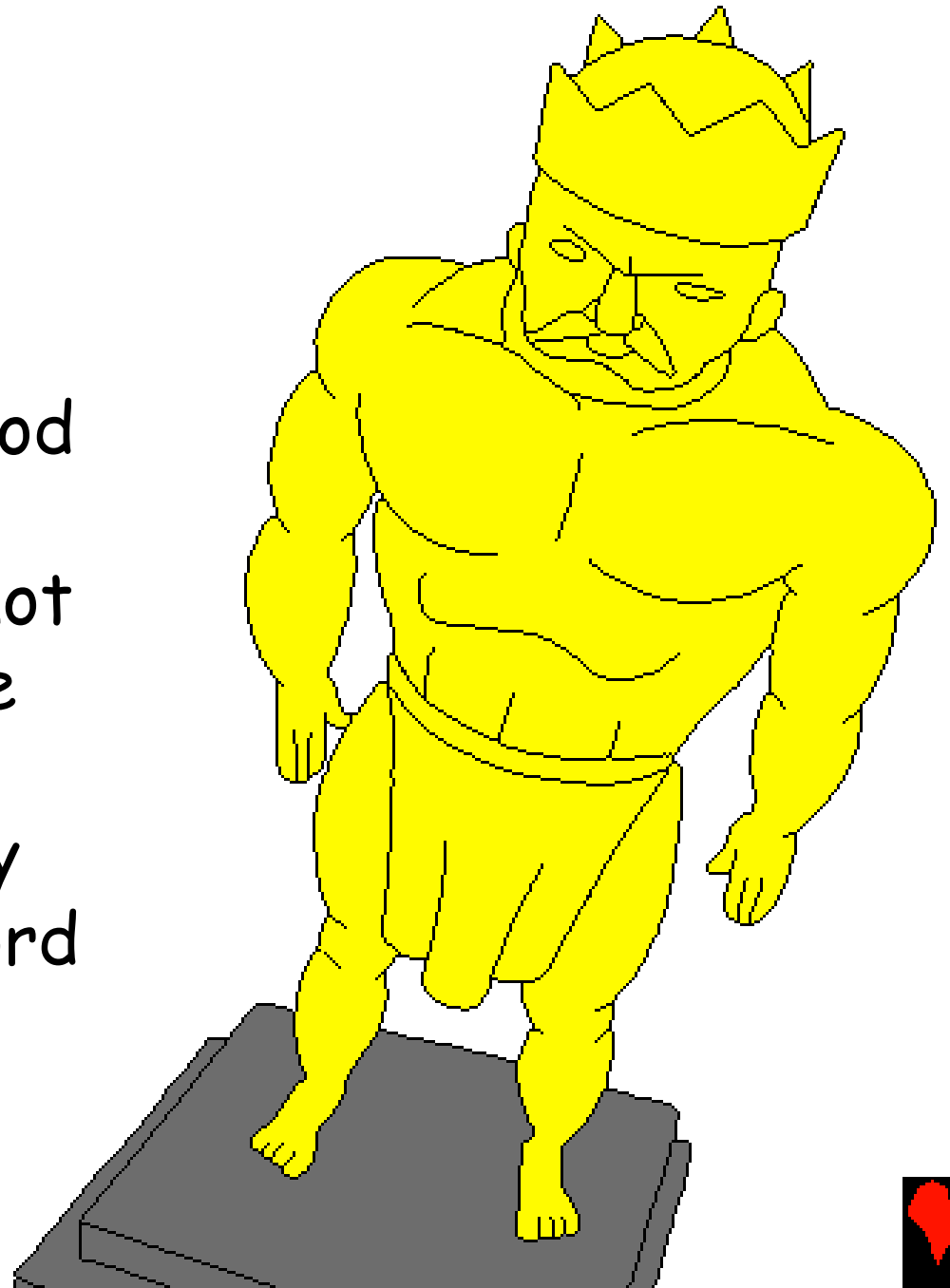
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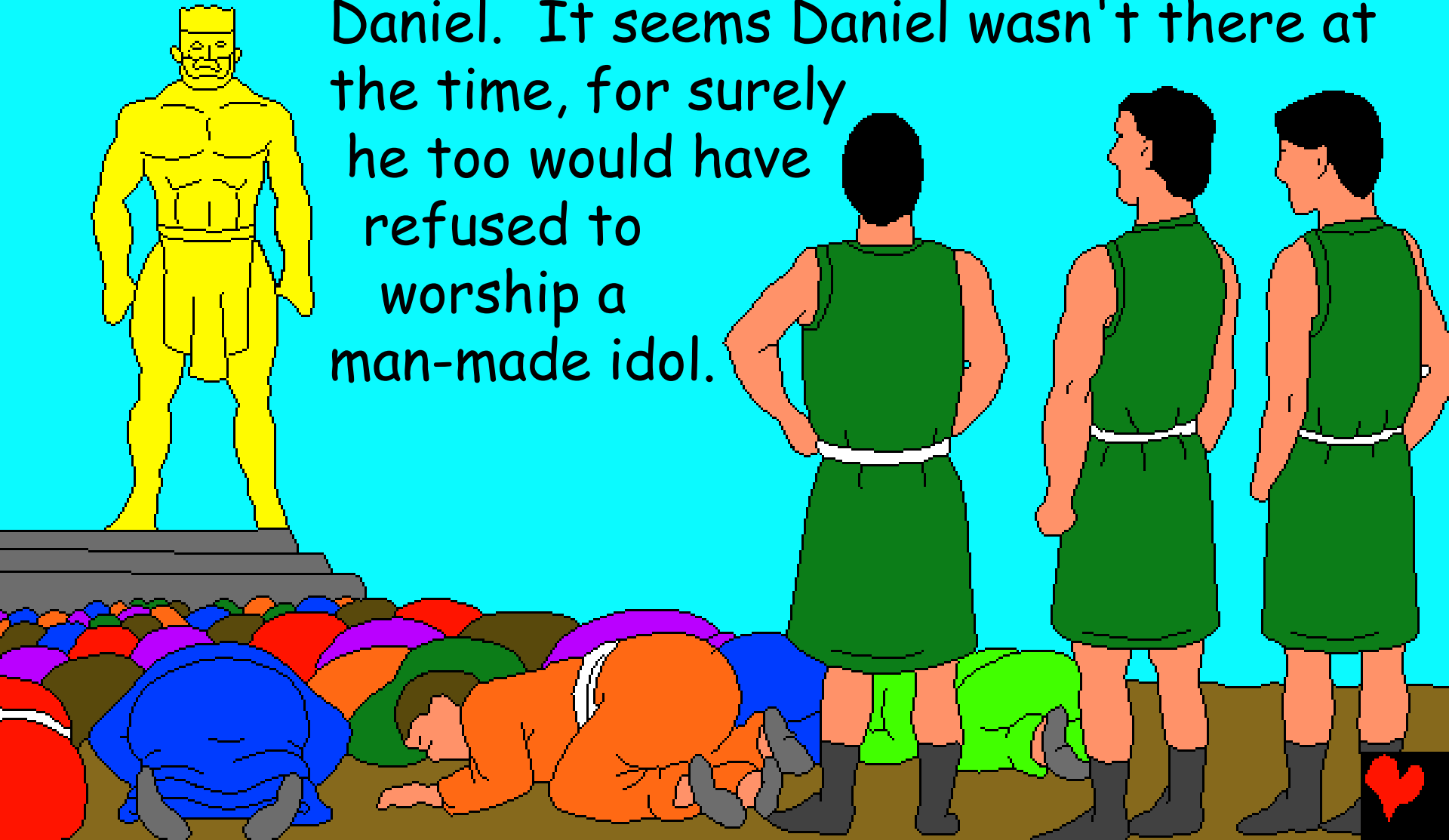
King Nebuchadnezzar built a huge golden statue. It was gold, from head to foot. Maybe the king had forgotten the dream God sent to tell him his golden kingdom would not last forever. Maybe he thought if he built a statue made completely of gold, then God's Word in his dream would not come true.



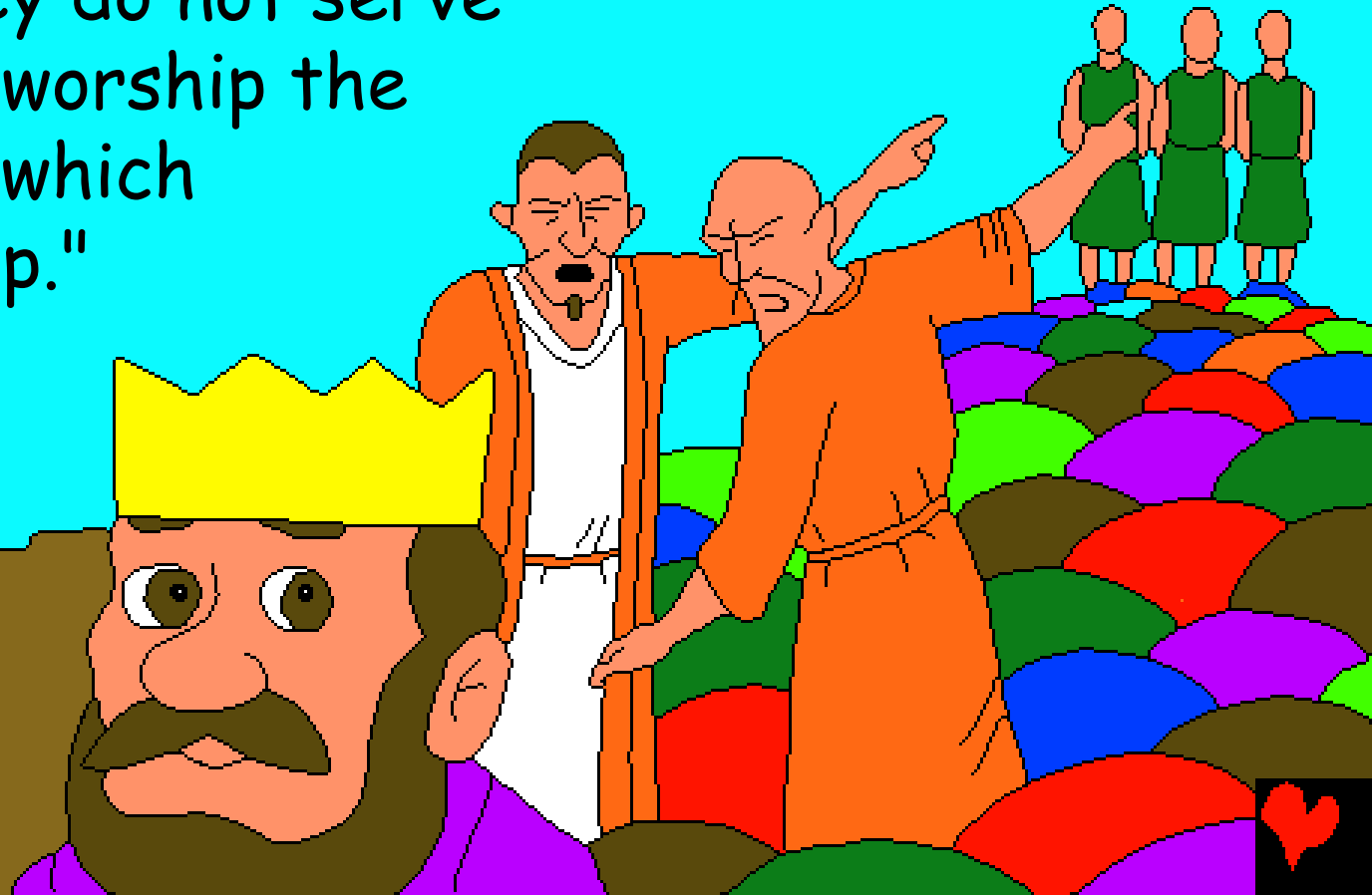
One of the king's servants read the order to all the people: " ... you shall fall down and worship the golden statue ... And whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into the middle of a burning fiery furnace."

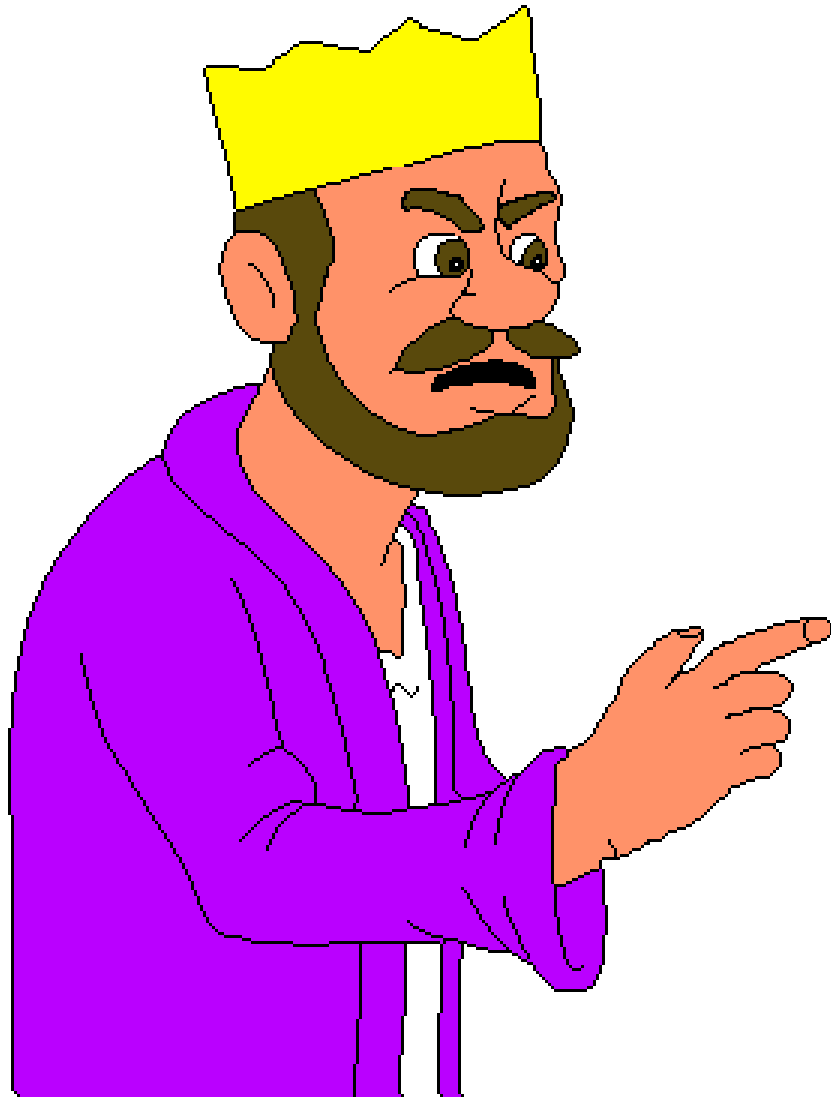


Everybody did what the king ordered - except for three men. These men were Hebrews. They were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, friends of Daniel. It seems Daniel wasn't there at the time, for surely he too would have refused to worship a man-made idol.



The king's wise men were jealous of Daniel and his friends because the king liked them. So they said, "There are three men whom you have placed as rulers over the province of Babylon - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, do not obey you. They do not serve your gods nor worship the golden statue which you have set up."





King Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage. He warned them, "If you do not worship, you will be thrown into the middle of a burning fiery furnace. And which god will deliver you out of my hand?"



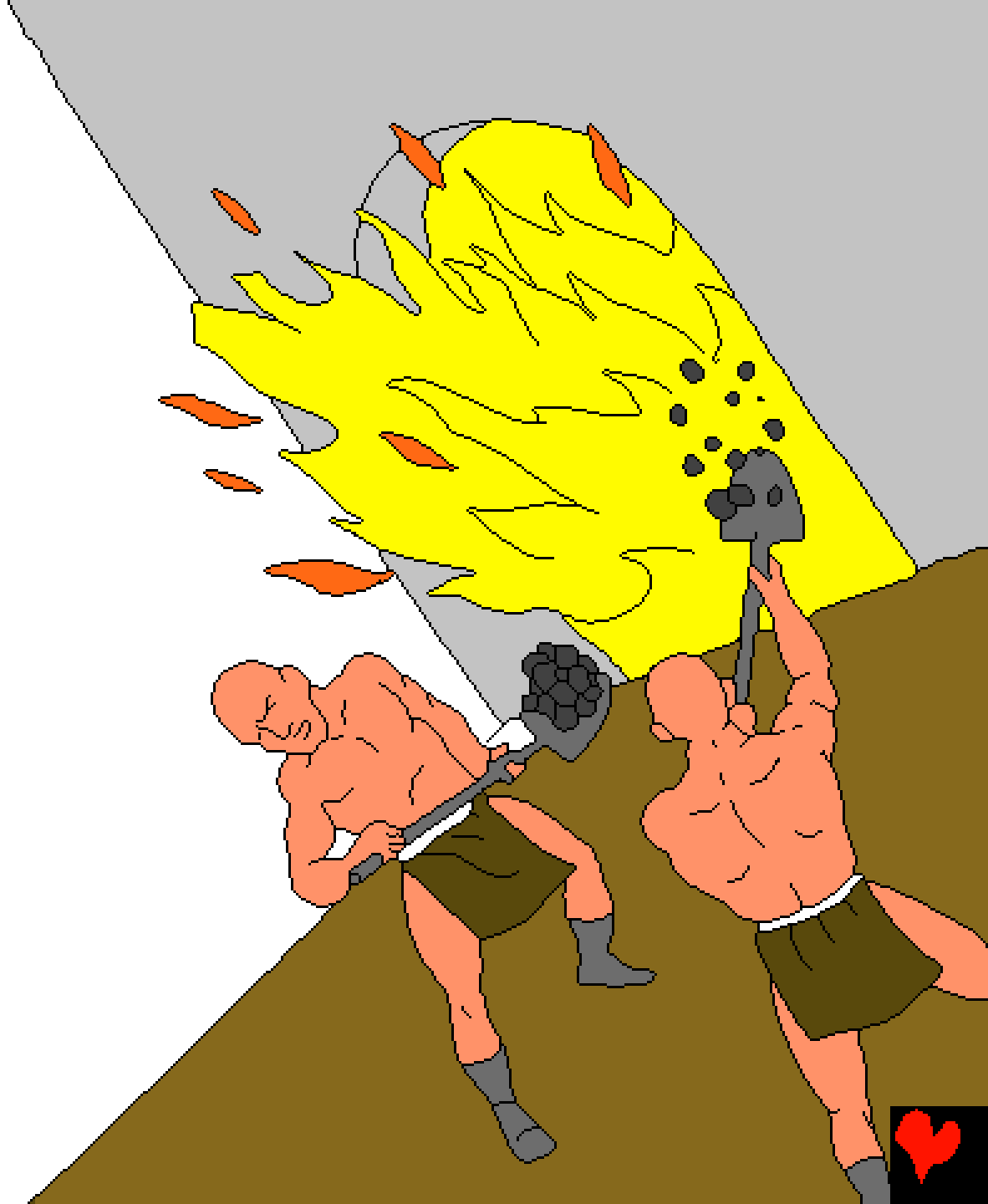
The king was making a big mistake. He was really challenging the living God. The three Hebrew men knew it was against God's law to worship a statue. They stayed standing. Because they trusted God, they were not afraid of the king.



These three brave men had an answer for the king. They said, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden statue which you have set up."



King Nebuchadnezzar was furious! He commanded that they should heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. Still the men would not kneel.



The king commanded mighty men in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to throw them into the burning fiery furnace.



The furnace was so hot that the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the fire were killed by the heat.



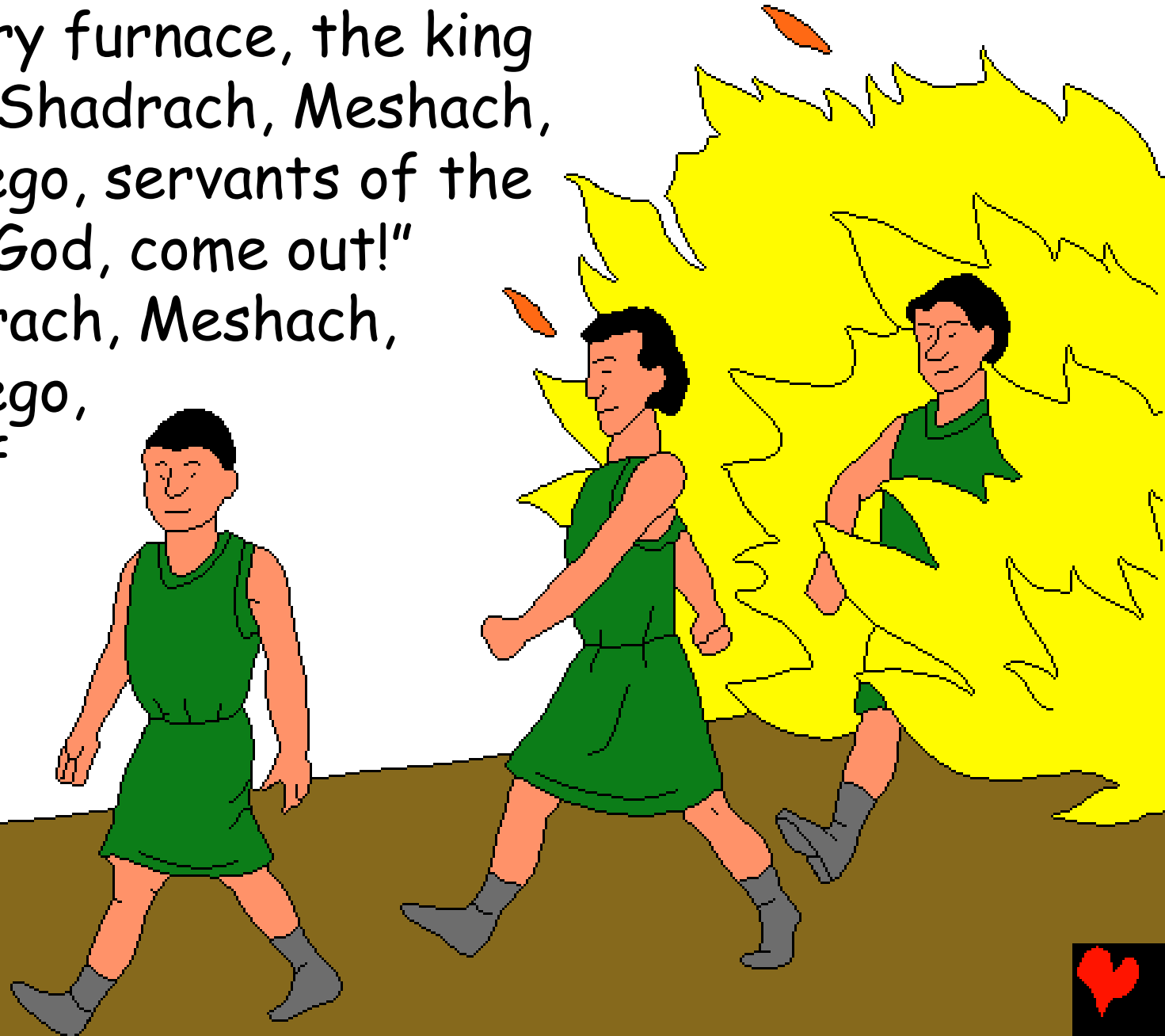
The king watched from a safe distance. He saw the three men being thrown right into the middle of the blazing furnace. But that's not all he saw.



King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed!
"Did we not throw three men
bound into the middle of
the fire?" he asked his
helpers. "Yes," they
replied. He said,
"Look! I see four
men loose,
walking in the
middle of the
fire, and they
are not hurt.
And the fourth
one is like the
Son of God!"



Moving close to the door of the burning fiery furnace, the king cried out, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came out of the fiery furnace.



Everybody gathered around and examined the three Hebrews. They had seen that the fire had no power to burn them. Their hair wasn't scorched and their clothes were not burned. There was not even the smell of fire on them.



When he realized what had happened, King Nebuchadnezzar did something very wise. He prayed, and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His Angel and has delivered His servants who trusted in Him."



The Men Who Would Not Bend

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

Daniel 3

"The entrance of Your Words gives light."

Psalm 119:130



The End



This Bible story tells us about our wonderful God who made us and who wants us to know Him.

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin.

The punishment for sin is death, but God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and be punished for our sins. Then Jesus came back to life and went home to Heaven! If you believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive your sins, He will do it! He will come and live in you now, and you will live with Him forever.

If you want to turn from your sins, say this to God:

Dear God, I believe that Jesus died for me and now lives again. Please come into my life and forgive my sins, so that I can have new life now, and one day go to be with You forever. Help me to live for You as Your child. Amen.

Read the Bible and talk with God every day! John 3:16

