



# Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 2:44, 3:12-29, 4:3

**"Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! Time Travel visitor in 3 ... 2 ... 1," the computer announced.**

**"Whoa, I wasn't expecting company!" Woodstock jumped as a man in a black spacesuit, boots, and a helmet slid into view. He noticed the man had a captain's patch on the shoulder of his spacesuit. "How's it going, dude?"**

**The man stood up and removed his helmet. "Where am I? Where is this place?"**

**"You're onboard the Love Sub, brother," Woodstock answered.**

**The visitor stood very tall with his head held high. "I am not your brother. I am Captain Drago from Planet Ephesus!"**

**"Oh yeah, I've heard of you!" Woodstock smiled. "Dr. Sominex said you used to come on board Skylab Omega all the time! I'm Dr. Woodstock from planet Earth!"**

**"That was my brother, Yago. I am Drago!" the captain corrected him. "I have heard of you also. You are the one Nofutu spoke of; the one who is familiar with God's power."**

**"Yes, I'm familiar with His Power Source! Here, let me open it up," Woodstock offered. He opened the porthole and removed the Bible. "Here it is, dude!"**

**Drago instantly drew his light sword and waved it defensively at the porthole. "Yah! Ephesians! Attack!"**

**"Whoa! Chill out! It's just God's Word," Woodstock assured him while holding up the Bible.**

**"Of course ... I knew that ... God's Word, the Bible," Drago relaxed slightly and turned off his light sword. He returned it to its sheath on his belt. "I should look there for my answers."**

**"Well, if you've got questions, God's Word has the answers," Woodstock replied.**

**"I need answers," Drago admitted. "I am new to the ways of God. The new king on my planet has put me in charge of the men, but he does not know the God you and I serve."**

**"Wow, sounds like you're in the same boat Daniel was in," Woodstock said. "He was the advisor to King Nebuchadnezzar."**

**"Did he tell the king to put God first?" Drago asked.**

**"He did, man! Daniel knew God's kingdom was greater than every other kingdom!" Woodstock read Daniel's words from Daniel 2:44, "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."**

**The warning triggered the red lights and siren. Drago instantly jumped to his feet, his lit sword was raised and ready for battle. "Aha! A surprise attack!"**

**Woodstock shook his head. "No, dude. Relax! That's the warning God sent to the king."**

**Drago warily lowered his sword but remained standing. "Yes! I, too, want to warn my king that God must come first!"**

**"King Nebuchadnezzar got that warning but, unfortunately, he had some evil advisors." Woodstock said, shaking his head.**

**"Oh, I hate evil men!" Drago growled.**

**Woodstock took a deep breath. "These evil men hated Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego."**

**Drago gave an uncharacteristic chuckle. "Their names were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Wow! I thought Drago was a strange name."**

**"They did have unusual names, but they loved God with all their hearts and would never worship any other god or idol," Woodstock said.**

**"Of course not! No man of honor would bow down to a false god!" Drago exclaimed.**

**"Yeah, but those evil dudes were not men of honor. They tricked the king into making a law that every person had to bow down and worship a golden statue of the king!"**

**"If I were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, I would refuse to bow ..." Just then, Handsome popped up holding a flaming torch. Drago's sword was up in a flash. "Ah! Fire! Get back you evil hand!"**

**"Whoa, dude! You've got to calm down! That's my friend, Handsome." Woodstock introduced Handsome to Drago.**

**Drago looked surprised. "That flaming hand is your friend?!"**

**Woodstock nodded. "He doesn't usually carry fire. He is explaining to us that the king's law said those who did not bow would be thrown into a hot, fiery furnace!"**

**Drago lowered his sword. "That would not feel good. What did the three men do?"**

**"They still refused to bow," Woodstock answered.**

**One corner of Drago's mouth curled up slightly, as if he were about to smile. "I like them!"**

**"They told the king that God would rescue them from the furnace, but even if He didn't, they would not serve his gods or worship his idol," Woodstock said.**

**Drago's smile stretched a bit further. "Yes! What did Nebuchadnezzar say to that?"**

**Woodstock shook his head. "He ordered the fire heated seven times hotter than it usually was and he threw the three men in the furnace, man! But, when the king looked inside, he saw four men walking around! He said the fourth man looked like a son of the gods!"**

**"Ha! The Lord rescued them!" Drago cried out triumphantly.**

**"Yes," Woodstock confirmed, "and when they came out, the fire had not harmed them or their robes. King Nebuchadnezzar actually praised God for rescuing them. He respected the choice they had made." Woodstock read Daniel 3:28, "They trusted in Him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."**

**Drago looked alarmingly at the flashing red and green lights, but he did not raise his sword. "What is this?" he asked.**

**"Those are the choice lights," Woodstock said. "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego made the right choice to stand together and trust the one true God!"**

**"God was there in the flames with them!" Drago added.**

**"That's right," Woodstock agreed. "It's like Jesus said, 'Where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them.'"**

**"Yes! God promises to be there with us and God always keeps His promises!" Drago did not flinch this time as the green light flashed and the sound of people clapping echoed through the air.**

**"This is God's promise!" Woodstock read Daniel 4:3, "How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; His dominion endures from generation to generation."**

**"God's kingdom will last forever! Now, that's a promise!" Drago stood tall and thumped his chest with his fist. "I, too, will tell my new king that God's kingdom must come first!"**

**Woodstock nodded approvingly. "Dude, that king is lucky to have a godly friend like you."**

**Drago saluted Woodstock. "And, I am honored to have met a godly friend like you." Turning to Handsome, he repeated the salute. "And, like you, too, hand guy. You have both taught me that when friends unite together, God is with them." He paused and turned back to Woodstock. "May I call you my friends?"**

**"Sure, dude! And together we can pray God will change the heart of your king, like He did Nebuchadnezzar," Woodstock replied. "Also, you need to know that, 'No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!'"**