

The truth of the Bible came to the Netherlands seven hundred years before Luther's time when two bishops travelled to Rome and like Luther, were disgusted and horrified by the corruption they found there. When Missionaries from the Waldenses visited they found the people hungry for truth and the Waldensian Bible was also translated into the Dutch language. Later, the writings of Luther were received with gladness, and many believed and became preachers of truth.

Menno Simons was a priest in Holland when he was finally forced to turn to the Bible to find the answers to some difficult questions. He withdrew from the Roman Church and became a travelling preacher in the Netherlands and northern Germany, taking his wife and children with him.

The Emperor had lots of power in the Netherlands so when he decided to stop the reformation a time of great persecution followed. 'To read the Bible, to hear or preach it, or even to speak concerning it, was to incur the penalty of death by the stake. To pray to God in secret, to refrain from bowing to an image (like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego), or to sing a psalm, was also punishable with death... thousands perished under the reign of Charles and of Philip II.' GC p240. Yet they died willingly and their deaths showed people the truth and as a result more people believed.

The progress of truth in Scandinavia was more peaceful. Students from Wittenburg passing through brought the truth and writings from Luther also circulated.

Hans Tausen's parents could not afford to give him the education he desired so he joined a monastery. His talent was soon recognised, and they agreed to sponsor him at any university except Wittenberg. Tausen went to Cologne but was soon disgusted by the mysticisms of the school men so without permission he changed to Wittenberg. When he returned to Denmark, he immediately started sharing the truths he had learned. His was at once confined to a prison cell but when several of the guards decided to convert to Protestantism, they didn't know what to do so they released him. Now he was free to preach, and the people thronged to listen!

In Sweden, two brothers, Olaf and Laurentius Petri, studied at Wittenburg and then return to spread the good news. The king was trying to improve his country, so he invited Olaf to defend the doctrines of the Reformation against the Roman church. Soon after this the king too accepted the Reformed Christian faith.

Olaf had already translated the New Testament into Swedish, but now at the king's request the two brothers translated the Old Testament as well. Then the king ordered that the Bible be taught throughout Sweden in the churches and the schools.

The Fiery Furnace

Sabbath

In his vision of the four beasts Daniel saw God sitting down for the judgement; only a few people have ever seen God.

The prophet Ezekiel wrote his messages around the same time as the prophet Jeremiah; but Ezekiel was with the exiled people in Babylon, telling them what was happening and what was about to happen in Jerusalem while Jeremiah was in Jerusalem itself. Like Jeremiah, Ezekiel was told by God to act out many strange object lessons to try to get the peoples attention; like packing a bag and digging a hole in the wall and walking away from the city at night to show that the people in Jerusalem would soon be taken captive. Ezekiel saw God in his first vision.

The Apostle John also saw God in one of his visions too.

Read what Daniel wrote about God in Daniel 7:9-10

Read what Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 1

Read what John wrote in Revelation 4

It seems that what they saw was so amazing that they had trouble describing it. Draw what you think it might have looked like.

Sunday

After a while King Nebuchadnezzar forgot about God. He started thinking that his kingdom should last forever, so he made a giant golden statue outside the city. He called everyone to come for the dedication and instructed, "When the music plays, bow to the ground and worship; anyone who refuses will be thrown into a blazing furnace."

As the music began, everyone except three of Daniel's friends bowed! (Daniel wasn't there)

Nebuchadnezzar ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. He said, "Is it true you refuse to worship my golden statue? I will give you one more chance to worship it."

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "Our God has the power to save us from the fire; but even if He doesn't, we want you to know that we will never bow to or worship the golden statue."

Nebuchadnezzar was so angry that he commanded the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual. Then he ordered his soldiers to tie Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and throw them in. The flames were so hot that they killed the soldiers as they threw them in!

Suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace? Look! I see four men, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a god!"

Nebuchadnezzar went as close as he could to the door of the furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out!"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire, and everyone crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Their hair wasn't singed, their clothing wasn't scorched, and they didn't even smell of smoke!

Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He rescued his servants who trusted in him, and they were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God!" And he sent out a decree that no one should speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Friday

Life with God is much nicer than life without God. When bad things happen, we know that God is in control. When we are scared, we pray, and God sends His angels to comfort us. When someone who loves Jesus dies, we know that we will see them in heaven. When other sad things happen, we know that one day soon we will live in heaven where nothing bad will ever happen. We want to live, but even if we die, we know that we will live again. Because we believe what God has said in the Bible, we have hope and a purpose in life, and we can enjoy life.

When we look at the prophecies in the Bible like the ones that Daniel wrote, we can see that many of them have been fulfilled already. This shows us that the Bible is true, we can trust what God said, and we can also trust that the prophecies that have not been fulfilled yet will also come true.

Even now, governments are trying to unite to make another world power, but we know from Daniel's vision that they will not succeed.

Amos 3:7^{NIV} says, "Surely the _____ does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the _____."

Jeremiah 29:11^{NLT}, "For I know the _____ I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a _____ and a _____."

Romans 8:28^{NIV}, "And we know that in all things God works for the _____ of those who _____ Him, who have been called according to His _____."

Find the missing words.

D	O	N	L	O	T	P	B	E	A	F	R	L
A	I	S	O	V	E	R	E	I	G	N	D	O
O	F	T	R	H	O	O	S	E	W	H	O	V
G	O	O	D	K	I	P	U	R	P	O	S	E
L	L	T	H	E	B	H	O	D	U	Y	B	U
T	C	A	L	O	V	E	N	N	R	O	T	K
I	L	L	Y	O	U	T	R	S	P	O	U	L
D	O	N	O	T	B	S	E	G	O	O	D	A
F	R	A	I	D	O	F	T	H	S	O	S	E
W	H	O	K	I	L	L	T	H	E	E	B	O

Thursday

It must have been a bit scary for Daniel's friends to stand up when everyone else bowed down. It might be scary for you to do the right thing when your friends don't.

But if you do what the dot-to-dot says and _____ F • E • Z • B God, then He will help you.

Have you ever been near a campfire? Yes / No

What did your clothes smell like afterwards?

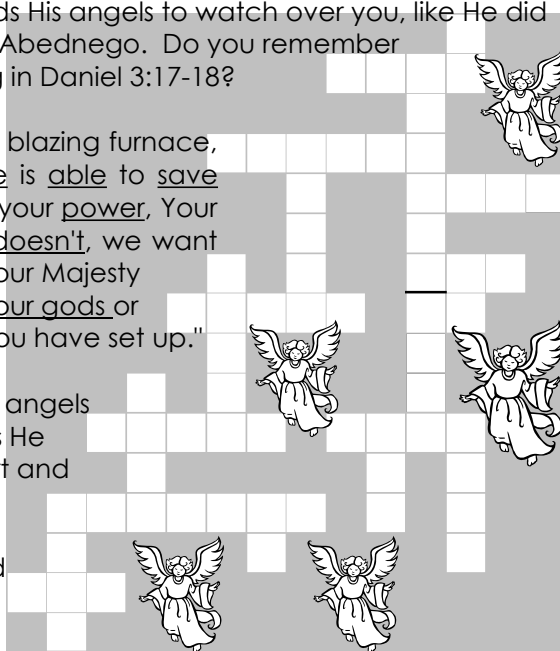
Have you ever burned yourself? Yes / No
What happened?



Remember that God sends His angels to watch over you, like He did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Do you remember what they said to the king in Daniel 3:17-18?

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

Sometimes God sends His angels to rescue, and sometimes He sends them just to comfort and give strength. Either way, you can be sure God is in control. Fit the underlined words in the grid.



Monday

One night Nebuchadnezzar had another dream. This time he remembered it but none of the wise men could tell him what it meant until Daniel came. Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed of a large, strong tree that reached up to the sky so everyone could see it. It was loaded with fruit; many animals lived under it and birds nested in its branches. Then an angel came and at his command the tree was cut down and the stump left with a bronze and iron band around it. The angel said "For seven periods of time let him have the mind of an animal."

When Daniel heard the dream he was upset. At Nebuchadnezzar's urging Daniel finally said, "You are the tree, you rule the earth and your greatness reaches to heaven. But for seven years, you will live like an animal, eating grass like a cow. When you have learned that God rules the world and gives kingdoms to those He chooses, He will return your kingdom to you."

One year later, Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of the palace and looking across the city he said to himself, "Look at this beautiful city that I have made!" That same hour he lost his mind and lived outside in a field, eating grass like a cow! When his mind finally returned, he sent a message to the whole world praising God.

Nebuchadnezzar needed to learn that he was the world leader because God allowed him to be. Without God, he could do nothing to change the future and nor could anyone else.

After the vision of the four beasts God gave Daniel another vision of a two-horned ram that was knocked over by a one-horned goat. Then the angel Gabriel came and told Daniel that the ram was Medo-Persia and the goat represented Greece; the horn was first king of Greece who we now know was Alexander the Great. The first horn was broken, and more horns grew to symbolise future kings, including the one who would destroy Gods people - the little horn from the terrible fourth beast in Daniel's other vision. At the end of that dream Daniel heard an angel say, "2300 days and then the temple will be made right again."

Then Daniel was told to seal up the vision to keep it secret for now and then for several days Daniel lay in bed, exhausted.

Tuesday

Do you remember what the 2nd Commandment that God gave to Moses said? What does the 2nd commandment say?

■	+	▣	●	⬠	✿	◆
A	B	D	E	G	H	I
◎	✕	■	◇	✱	●	◐
L	M	O	P	R	S	W

You must not make for yourself an     of any kind or an

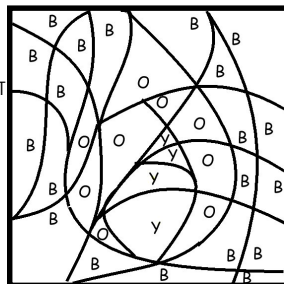
     of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in

the sea. You must not    down to them or

       them. Exodus 21:4-5^{NLT}

Colour the picture:

B = Brown, O = Orange, Y = Yellow



Do you think it was easy for everyone to see Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as they stood when everyone bowed down? Yes / No

Do you think it was easy for everyone to see them as they stood in the fire? Yes / No

Find these words:

Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Babylon, statue, gold, bow, worship, furnace, God

M A B C D E F G H I J K L M O
N E B U C H A D N E Z Z A R N
P Q S M N O P Q R S T U B O W
S R S H A D R A C H W V E X O
T U T L A S R N M G O L D Y R
W V A K J C Q O L O F E N Z S
X Y T G H I H P K D G D E A H
Z F U R N A C E J I H C G B I
A B E C D E F B A B Y L O N P

Wednesday

Who was the greatest king of Babylon? (1 across)

Many times King Nebuchadnezzar wavered between pride in his own power and acknowledging God's power.

God first revealed his power in Daniel 2 in a _____ (5d)

In Daniel 3, Nebuchadnezzar builds a giant statue, all of _____ (6a), showing that he thought his _____ (2d) should last forever.

But God performed the miracle in the _____ (3d) and again Nebuchadnezzar worshipped God.

In Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar forgot God again and God warned him in the dream of the _____ (7a). Because Nebuchadnezzar didn't listen, the dream was fulfilled one _____ (4d) later.

Don't be like Nebuchadnezzar; remember who is in control.

