

# Daniel 3:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

## Analysis

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Nebuchadnezzar's address—'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth'—represents stunning transformation. Earlier he challenged 'who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?' (v. 15); now he acknowledges 'the most high God.' Using their Babylonian names shows he still thinks in pagan categories, but calling them 'servants of the most high God' recognizes superior divine authority. The command 'come forth' implies the furnace door is opened and they can exit—previously instruments of execution, now witnessing deliverance. This public acknowledgment before assembled officials becomes powerful testimony to God's supremacy.

## Historical Context

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The title 'most high God' (Aramaic: *elaha illaya*) was used in ancient Near East to acknowledge supreme deity while not necessarily embracing monotheism. Nebuchadnezzar could be placing Yahweh at the head of his pantheon rather than recognizing Him as the only God. Yet this public acknowledgment before Babylon's entire bureaucracy gave testimony to Yahweh's power. Ancient Near Eastern religion readily incorporated new powerful deities into existing pantheons—the shock here is that exclusive monotheism won't allow such accommodation.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God use dramatic deliverances to force acknowledgment of His supremacy even from hostile authorities?
2. What is the difference between acknowledging God as 'most high' versus worshiping Him exclusively as the only true God?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכָאֵלֶּה	אֵת	לְתַבְעַת	נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר	קָרַב	בָּאֵלֶּה
Then		to the mouth	Nebuchadnezzar	came near	fiery
H116		H8651	H5020	H7127	H5135
וְכָאֵלֶּה	וְעַבְדֵּי	מִיֶּשֶׁת	שָׂדַח	וְאָמַר	עֵי הַ
of the burning		Meshach	Shadrach	and said	and spake
H3345		H4336	H7715	H560	H6032
וְכָאֵלֶּה	וְאֵת	נָפְקוּ	עָלָיו	אֵלֶּה	וְעַבְדֵּי
Then	and come	came forth	of the most high	God	ye servants
H116	H858	H5312	H5943	H426	H1768
וְכָאֵלֶּה	גַּם	מִן	וְעַבְדֵּי	מִיֶּשֶׁת	שָׂדַח
fiery	of	the midst	and Abednego	Meshach	Shadrach
H5135	H4481	H1459	H5665	H4336	H7715
					H5312

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 3:17** (References God): If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

**Daniel 4:2** (References God): I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

**Revelation 19:5** (References God): And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

**Isaiah 52:12** (References God): For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward.

**Acts 16:17** (References God): The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

**Galatians 1:10** (References God): For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

**Joshua 4:10** (Parallel theme): For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hastened and passed over.

**Joshua 3:17** (Parallel theme): And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

**Daniel 2:47** (References God): The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.