

THE PRAYER OF AZARIAH AND THE SONG OF THE THREE YOUNG MEN^a

Azariah Prays in the Furnace

¹ The three young men, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ^b were walking around in the flames, singing hymns to God, and praising the Lord. ² Then Azariah stood still, and in the fire, he prayed aloud:

- 3** “We praise and worship you, Lord God of our ancestors.
We will honor your name forever.
- 4** Everything you do is right and fair, every choice you make is good,
and every decision you make is fair.
- 5** You made the right decision when you brought disaster on us
and on Jerusalem, the holy city of our ancestors.
We deserved this destruction because of our sins.
- 6** We sinned; we broke your laws by rebelling against you.
We committed every kind of sin.
- 7** We didn’t obey your commands.
We didn’t follow them or do what you told us to do.
If we had obeyed, things would have gone better for us.
- 8** So every disaster you brought on us—
everything you decided to do to us—was fair.
- 9** You handed us over to our enemies, who were lawless and hateful rebels,
and to an evil king, the most wicked king in the entire world.
- 10** Now we are too ashamed to speak.
We, your servants who worship you,
are publicly humiliated and disgraced.
- 11** “For the sake of your name, never abandon us,
and never break your promise ^c to us.
- 12** Always be merciful to us.
Do this for the sake of your friend Abraham,
for the sake of your servant Isaac,
and for the sake of your holy one Israel.
- 13** You promised to make their descendants
as numerous as the stars in the sky
and the grains of sand on the seashore.

^a The Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men in English Bibles is Daniel 3:24-90 in the Greek Bible. This is a Greek addition inserted between Daniel 3:23 and 3:24 in the Hebrew Bible.

^b 1 In Babylon Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. See Daniel 1:7.

^c 11 Or “covenant.”

- 14** Yet, Lord, we have decreased in number more than any other nation.
Because of our sins, we are humiliated all over the world.
- 15** We have no ruler, prophet, or leader now.
There are no more burnt offerings,
sacrifices, grain offerings, or incense.
There's no place where we can bring these gifts into your presence
and find mercy.
- 16** So please accept our sorrowful hearts and broken spirits.
- 17** Accept them as you would accept burnt offerings of rams, bulls,
or thousands of fat lambs.
Then we will be at peace with you.^d
No one who trusts you will ever be put to shame.
- 18** Now we are following you wholeheartedly.
We fear you, and we are looking for you.
- 19** Never let us be put to shame.
Be kind to us, and show us your rich mercy.
- 20** Rescue us by using your amazing miracles.
Bring honor to your name, Lord.
- 21** Humiliate all those who harm us.
Strip them of all their power.
Drain their strength.
- 22** Let them know that you alone are the Lord God
and that you are honored throughout the whole world.”

23 The king's servants who had thrown the three men into the furnace continued to fuel the fire with oil, tar, flax, and brushwood. **24** The flames shot up 75 feet above the furnace. **25** They spread out and burned up the Babylonians who were standing near the furnace. **26** But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace to be with Azariah and his companions. The angel forced the flames out of the furnace **27** so that it felt as if a cool breeze were blowing in the middle of the furnace. The fire never touched the men. It never hurt or affected them in any way.

The Three Men Sing Hymns to Praise God

- 28** Then the three men in the furnace started praising and honoring God by singing the following hymn:
- 29** “We praise and worship you, Lord God of our ancestors.
We always want to give you the highest honor.
- 30** We praise your glorious and holy name.
We always want to give your name the highest praise and honor.
- 31** We praise you in your glorious and holy temple.
We always want to give you the highest praise and glory.
- 32** We praise you; you are enthroned over the angels.^e
We praise you; you can look into the bottomless pit.
We want to sing your praise and always give you the highest honor.
- 33** We praise you; you are seated on your royal throne.
We always want to give you the highest praise and honor.

^d 17 Some Greek manuscripts; other Greek manuscripts “We will wholeheartedly follow you.”

^e 32 Or “cherubim.”

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- 34** We praise you in the highest heavens.
We always want to give you praise and honor.
- 35** "Praise the Lord, all creation.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 36** Praise the Lord, you heavens.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 37** Praise the Lord, angels of the Lord.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 38** Praise the Lord, water above the sky.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 39** Praise the Lord, all you [heavenly] powers.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 40** Praise the Lord, sun and moon.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 41** Praise the Lord, stars of heaven.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 42** "Praise the Lord, all rain and dew.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 43** Praise the Lord, all you winds.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 44** Praise the Lord, fire and heat.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 45** Praise the Lord, bitter cold and scorching heat.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 46** Praise the Lord, sleet and snowflakes.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 47** Praise the Lord, you nights and days.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 48** Praise the Lord, light and darkness.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 49** Praise the Lord, ice and cold.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 50** Praise the Lord, frost and snow.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 51** Praise the Lord, lightning and clouds.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 52** "Let the earth praise the Lord.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 53** Praise the Lord, mountains and hills.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 54** Praise the Lord, everything that grows on the ground.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 55** Praise the Lord, seas and rivers.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 56** Praise the Lord, you springs.

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- Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 57** Praise the Lord, you whales and all you swimming creatures.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 58** Praise the Lord, all you birds.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 59** Praise the Lord, all you domestic and wild animals.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 60** "Praise the Lord, all you people on earth.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 61** Praise the Lord, Israel.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 62** Praise the Lord, you priests of the Lord.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 63** Praise the Lord, you servants of the Lord.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 64** Praise the Lord, you spirits and souls of righteous people.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 65** Praise the Lord, you people who are holy and humble at heart.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
- 66** "Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael, praise the Lord.
Sing songs to praise him, and always give him the highest honor.
He has rescued us from a fiery tomb
and saved us from the power of death.
He has rescued us from the flames in the blazing furnace
and saved us from the fire.
- 67** Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,
because his mercy endures forever.
- 68** Praise the Lord, the God of gods, all those who worship him.
Sing songs to praise him, and give thanks to him,
because his mercy endures forever."