

¹تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ الْمَلِكُ صَيَّعَ تَمَثَّالًا مِنْ ذَهَبٍ طُولُهُ سِتُّونَ ذِرَاعًا وَعَرْضُهُ سِتُّ أذْرُعَ، وَتَصَبُّهُ فِي بُقْعَةٍ دُورًا فِي وِلَايَةِ بَابِلَ. ²ثُمَّ أَرْسَلَ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ الْمَلِكُ لِيَجْمَعَ الْمَرَارِيَّةَ وَالشَّحْنَ وَالْوَلَاةَ وَالْفُصَاهَةَ وَالْخَزَنَةَ وَالْفُقَهَاءَ وَالْمُفَيِّينَ وَكُلَّ حُكَّامِ الْوِلَايَاتِ لِيَأْتُوا لِيَتَدَشِّينَ التَّمَثَالَ الَّذِي تَصَبُّهُ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ الْمَلِكُ. ³حِينَئِذٍ اجْتَمَعَ الْمَرَارِيَّةُ وَالشَّحْنَ وَالْوَلَاةُ وَالْفُصَاهَةُ وَالْخَزَنَةُ وَالْفُقَهَاءُ وَالْمُفَيِّينَ وَكُلَّ حُكَّامِ الْوِلَايَاتِ لِيَتَدَشِّينَ التَّمَثَالَ الَّذِي تَصَبُّهُ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ الْمَلِكُ، وَوَقَفُوا أَمَامَ التَّمَثَالَ الَّذِي تَصَبُّهُ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ. ⁴وَنَادَى مُنَادٍ بِشِدَّةٍ، قَدْ أَمَرْتُ أَتِيهَا الشُّعُوبُ وَالْأُمَمُ وَالْأَلْسِنَةُ، ⁵عِنْدَمَا تَسْمَعُونَ صَوْتَ الْقَرْنِ وَالنَّايِ وَالْعُودِ وَالرَّيَابِ وَالسَّنْطِيرِ وَالْمِزْمَارِ وَكُلِّ أَنْوَاعِ الْعَرَفِ أَنْ تَخْرُوا وَتَسْجُدُوا لِتَمَثَالَ الذَّهَبِ الَّذِي تَصَبُّهُ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ الْمَلِكُ. ⁶وَمَنْ لَا يَخِرُّ وَيَسْجُدُ فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ يُلْقَى فِي وَسْطِ أُنُونٍ تَارٍ مُتَّقِدَةٍ. ⁷لَأَجْلِ ذَلِكَ وَفَتَمَّا سَمِعَ كُلُّ الشُّعُوبِ صَوْتَ الْقَرْنِ وَالنَّايِ وَالْعُودِ وَالرَّيَابِ وَالسَّنْطِيرِ وَكُلِّ أَنْوَاعِ الْعَرَفِ، خَرَّ كُلُّ الشُّعُوبِ وَالْأُمَمِ وَالْأَلْسِنَةِ وَسَجَدُوا لِتَمَثَالَ الذَّهَبِ الَّذِي تَصَبُّهُ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ الْمَلِكُ. ⁸لَأَجْلِ ذَلِكَ تَقَدَّمَ حِينَئِذٍ رَجُلَانِ كِلَذَائِيُونَ وَاسْتَكْوَا عَلَى الْيَهُودِ، وَقَالُوا لِلْمَلِكِ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ، أَتِيهَا الْمَلِكُ، عِشْ إِلَى الْآبِدِ. ¹⁰أَتَتْ أَتِيهَا الْمَلِكُ قَدْ أَصْدَرَتْ أَمْرًا بِأَنْ كُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ يَسْمَعُ صَوْتَ الْقَرْنِ وَالنَّايِ وَالْعُودِ وَالرَّيَابِ وَالسَّنْطِيرِ وَالْمِزْمَارِ وَكُلِّ أَنْوَاعِ الْعَرَفِ يَخِرُّ وَيَسْجُدُ لِتَمَثَالَ الذَّهَبِ. ¹¹وَمَنْ لَا يَخِرُّ وَيَسْجُدُ فَإِنَّهُ يُلْقَى فِي وَسْطِ أُنُونٍ تَارٍ مُتَّقِدَةٍ. ¹²يُوجَدُ رَجُلَانِ يَهُودَ، الَّذِينَ وَكَلْتَهُمْ عَلَى أَعْمَالِ وِلَايَةِ بَابِلَ، سَدْرُحُ وَمِيشَاحُ وَعَبْدَنَعُ. هَؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالُ لَمْ يَجْعَلُوا لَكَ أَتِيهَا الْمَلِكُ اعْتِبَارًا. إِلَهْنِكَ لَا يَعْْبُدُونَ، وَلِتَمَثَالَ الذَّهَبِ الَّذِي تَصَبُّهُ لَا يَسْجُدُونَ. ¹³حِينَئِذٍ أَمَرَ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ بِعَضْبٍ وَعَيْطٍ بِإِخْصَارِ سَدْرُحُ وَمِيشَاحُ وَعَبْدَنَعُ. فَأَتُوا بِهِؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالُ قُدَّامَ الْمَلِكِ. ¹⁴فَسَأَلَهُمْ تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ، تَعَمَّدُوا يَا سَدْرُحُ وَمِيشَاحُ وَعَبْدَنَعُ لَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَهِي وَلَا تَسْجُدُونَ لِتَمَثَالَ الذَّهَبِ الَّذِي تَصَبُّهُ. ¹⁵فَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ الْآنَ مُسْتَعِدِّينَ عِنْدَمَا تَسْمَعُونَ صَوْتَ الْقَرْنِ وَالنَّايِ وَالْعُودِ وَالرَّيَابِ وَالسَّنْطِيرِ وَالْمِزْمَارِ وَكُلِّ أَنْوَاعِ الْعَرَفِ إِلَى أَنْ تَخْرُوا وَتَسْجُدُوا لِلتَّمَثَالَ الَّذِي عَمَلْتُهُ، وَإِنْ لَمْ تَسْجُدُوا فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ تُلْقَوْنَ فِي وَسْطِ أُنُونٍ تَارٍ مُتَّقِدَةٍ. وَمَنْ هُوَ إِلَهُ الَّذِي يُنْقِذُكُمْ مِنْ يَدِي. ¹⁶فَأَجَابَ سَدْرُحُ وَمِيشَاحُ وَعَبْدَنَعُ، يَا تَوَخَّدَتَصَّرُ، لَا يَلْزَمُنَا أَنْ نُجِيبَكَ عَنْ هَذَا الْأَمْرِ. ¹⁷هَؤُلَاءِ

¹Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ²Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. ³Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, ⁵That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: ⁶And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ⁷Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. ⁸Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. ⁹They spake and said to the king

يُوجَدُ إِلَهًا الَّذِي تَعْبُدُهُ يَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ يُجِيبَنَا مِنْ أَثُونِ النَّارِ الْمُتَقِدَّةِ وَأَنْ يُنْقِذَنَا مِنْ يَدِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ.¹⁸ وَلَا قَلِيلُكَ مَعْلُومًا لَكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ أَنَّنَا لَا نَعْبُدُ إِلَهَكَ وَلَا نَسْجُدُ لِيُمْنَالِ الذَّهَبِ الَّذِي تَصْنَعُهُ.¹⁹ حِينَئِذٍ امْتَلَأَ تَبُوحْدَنْصَرُ غَيْظًا وَتَغَيَّرَ مَنْظَرُ وَجْهِهِ عَلَى سَدْرَحَ وَمِيشَاحَ وَعَبْدَنْعُو، وَأَمَرَ بِأَنْ يَحْمُوا الْأَثُونِ سَبْعَةَ أَصْعَافٍ أَكْثَرَ مِمَّا كَانَ مُعْتَادًا أَنْ يُحْمَى.²⁰ وَأَمَرَ جَبَابِرَةُ الْقُوَّةِ فِي جَيْشِهِ بِأَنْ يُوثِقُوا سَدْرَحَ وَمِيشَاحَ وَعَبْدَنْعُو وَيُلْقُوهُمْ فِي أَثُونِ النَّارِ الْمُتَقِدَّةِ.²¹ ثُمَّ أَوْثَقَ هَؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالِ فِي سَرَائِلِهِمْ وَأَقْمَصَتِهِمْ وَأَرْدَبَتِهِمْ وَلِبَاسِهِمْ وَأَلْفُوا فِي وَسْطِ أَثُونِ النَّارِ الْمُتَقِدَّةِ.²² وَحِينَئِذٍ إِنَّ كَلِمَةَ الْمَلِكِ شَدِيدَةً وَالْأَثُونُ قَدْ حَمِيَ جِدًّا، فَقَتَلَ لَهَيْبَ النَّارِ الرِّجَالَ الَّذِينَ رَفَعُوا سَدْرَحَ وَمِيشَاحَ وَعَبْدَنْعُو.²³ وَهَؤُلَاءِ الثَّلَاثَةُ الرِّجَالِ، سَدْرَحُ وَمِيشَاحُ وَعَبْدَنْعُو، سَقَطُوا مُوْتَقِينَ فِي وَسْطِ أَثُونِ النَّارِ الْمُتَقِدَّةِ.²⁴ حِينَئِذٍ تَحَيَّرَ تَبُوحْدَنْصَرُ الْمَلِكُ وَقَامَ مُسْرِعًا وَسَأَلَ مُشِيرِيهِ، أَلَمْ تَلِكُ ثَلَاثَةُ رِجَالٍ مُوْتَقِينَ فِي وَسْطِ النَّارِ. فَأَجَابُوا، صَحِيحُ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ.²⁵ فَقَالَ، هَا أَنَا تَاطِرُ أَرْبَعَةِ رِجَالٍ مَحْلُولِينَ يَتَمَسَّحُونَ فِي وَسْطِ النَّارِ وَمَا بِهِمْ صَرَرٌ، وَمَنْظَرُ الرَّابِعِ شَبِيهُ بَابِ الْإِلَهَةِ.²⁶ ثُمَّ اقْتَرَبَ تَبُوحْدَنْصَرُ إِلَى بَابِ أَثُونِ النَّارِ الْمُتَقِدَّةِ وَتَادَى، يَا سَدْرَحُ وَمِيشَاحُ وَعَبْدَنْعُو، يَا عِبِيدَ اللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ، اخْرُجُوا وَتَعَالَوْا. فَخَرَجَ سَدْرَحُ وَمِيشَاحُ وَعَبْدَنْعُو مِنْ وَسْطِ النَّارِ. فَاجْتَمَعَتِ الْمَرَارِيَةُ وَالسَّحَنُ وَالْؤَلَاءُ وَمُشِيرُو الْمَلِكِ وَرَأَوْا هَؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالَ الَّذِينَ لَمْ تَكُنْ لِلنَّارِ قُوَّةٌ عَلَى أَجْسَادِهِمْ، وَسَعَرَةُ مِنْ رُؤُوسِهِمْ لَمْ تَحْتَرِقْ، وَسَرَائِلُهُمْ لَمْ تَتَغَيَّرْ، وَزَائِحَةُ النَّارِ لَمْ تَأْتِ عَلَيْهِمْ.²⁸ فَقَالَ تَبُوحْدَنْصَرُ، تَبَارَكَ إِلَهُ سَدْرَحَ وَمِيشَاحَ وَعَبْدَنْعُو الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ مَلَائِكَةً وَأَقْدَدَ عِبِيدَهُ الَّذِينَ أَتَكَلَّوْا عَلَيْهِ وَعَبَّرُوا كَلِمَةَ الْمَلِكِ وَأَسْلَمُوا أَجْسَادَهُمْ لِكَيْ لَا يَعْْبُدُوا أَوْ يَسْجُدُوا لِإِلَهِ غَيْرِ إِلَهُهِمْ.²⁹ فَمَتَّى قَدْ صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ بِأَنْ كُلُّ سَعْبٍ وَأَمَّةٍ وَلِسَانٍ يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِالسُّوءِ عَلَى إِلَهِ سَدْرَحَ وَمِيشَاحَ وَعَبْدَنْعُو فَإِنَّهُمْ يُصَيَّرُونَ إِرْبًا إِرْبًا، وَتُجْعَلُ بُيُوتُهُمْ مَرْبَلَةً، إِذْ لَيْسَ إِلَهُ آخَرُ يَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ يُنَجِّي هَكَذَا.³⁰ حِينَئِذٍ قَدَّمَ الْمَلِكُ سَدْرَحَ وَمِيشَاحَ وَعَبْدَنْعُو فِي وَلايَةِ بَابِلَ.

Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.¹⁰ Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image.¹¹ And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.¹² There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?¹⁵ Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well : but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ But if

not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.¹⁹ Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.²⁰ And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.²² Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.²⁷ And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.²⁹ Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.