

Daniel 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.

Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar's response—'in his rage and fury'—shows personal offense at perceived defiance. Absolute monarchs interpreted resistance to any command as challenge to their authority. Yet he orders them 'brought' rather than immediately executed, suggesting either respect for their previous service or desire to verify the accusation. Royal 'rage and fury' creates a terrifying context for the coming confrontation. The three men must choose between appeasing an enraged monarch or remaining faithful to God. Their courage becomes even more remarkable against this backdrop of deadly threat from unlimited power.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern monarchs wielded absolute authority including immediate capital punishment. Royal anger was dangerous—emotional stability in absolute rulers meant life or death for subjects. Nebuchadnezzar's documented volatile temperament appears in historical records describing his military campaigns and building projects. Bringing the accused before the king for interrogation was standard—it allowed verification of charges, demonstration of royal justice (however arbitrary), and opportunity for the accused to recant.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does standing firm in faith require courage when facing powerful authorities with violent tempers?
2. What does Nebuchadnezzar's rage teach about human authority's tendency to interpret non-compliance as personal insult?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֵלֵינוּ	נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר	בְּרֹגֶז	וְחֵמָה	אָמַר	הֵיטָה יוֹ
Then	Nebuchadnezzar	in his rage	and fury	commanded	they brought
H116	H5020	H7266	H2528	H560	H858

לְשַׁדְּרָךְ	מִישָׁךְ	וְעַבְדֵּנוּ	נֶגְוָה	בְּאֵלֵינוּ	גְּבָרִים	אֵלֵינוּ
Shadrach	Meshach	H0	and Abednego	Then	men	these
H7715	H4336		H5665	H116	H1400	H479

הֵיטָה יוֹ	קֹדָם	מֶלֶכָא:
they brought	before	the king
H858	H6925	H4430

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 3:19 (Parallel theme): Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

Daniel 2:12 (Kingdom): For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

