

Daniel 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 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

וַיֹּאמֶר נְבֻכָּדְנָצָר בְּרִגְזָה וְבְרִגְזָה אָמַר יְהִי יְהִי
Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded they brought
H116 H5020 H7266 H2528 H560 H858

אֶל־נְבֻכָּדְנָצָר אֶל־מִישָׁה וְאֶל־עֲבָדָנְגֹּה
Shadrach Meshach and Abednego Then men these
H7715 H4336 H0 H5665 H116 H1400 H479

מֶלֶךְ־אָמַר בְּרִגְזָה
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 Abednego: 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.

