

# Daniel 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar's rage-filled response—"the form of his visage was changed" and he commands heating the furnace 'seven times more than it was wont to be heated'—reveals wounded pride. The physiological detail of his contorted face shows fury overcoming royal composure. Ordering the furnace heated seven times hotter demonstrates irrational anger—the goal is painful death, not just execution. 'Seven times' may be rhetorical (perfect number indicating completeness) or literal excessive heat. Either way, the king's loss of control reveals human authority's true nature—when defied, it becomes vicious. Yet this excessive heat will magnify God's coming deliverance.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern furnaces for metalworking, brick-firing, or execution could reach extreme temperatures. Archaeological evidence shows sophisticated Babylonian metallurgy requiring controlled high-heat furnaces. Execution by burning was known in ancient law codes for serious crimes. The excessive heat order reveals the king's desire not merely to execute but to inflict maximum suffering, demonstrating royal power through cruel spectacle. Public executions of those who defied royal authority served as deterrent to future resistance.

## Related Passages

---

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

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Nebuchadnezzar's irrational rage reveal the ultimate instability of human authority when challenged?
2. What does the excessive heat order teach about how defiance of human pride produces disproportionate, vicious response?

## Interlinear Text

---

עָנָפֶה וְהִיא אֶצְלָם כִּי רַבּוֹכְדָנָצָר בְּאַדְלֵי  
Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury and the form of his visage

H116 H5020 H4391 H2528 H6755 H600

נָגַן תְּעֵבָה דְּמִישָׁר שְׁדָךְ גַּעַל אַשְׁתָּפָה  
was changed against Shadrach Meshach and Abednego

H8133 H5922 H7715 H4336 H0 H5665

לְאַתּוֹן אֶל מִזְבֵּחַ לְמִזְבֵּחַ וְאָמַר  
therefore he spake and commanded that they should heat the furnace one

H6032 H560 H228 H861 H2298

לְמִזְבֵּחַ שְׁבַע הַדָּיִעַ עַל דִּין  
seven times against than it was wont that they should heat

H7655 H5922 H1768 H2370 H228

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Daniel 3:13** (Parallel theme): Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

**Leviticus 26:24** (Parallel theme): Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

**Proverbs 21:24** (Parallel theme): Proud and haughty scioner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

**Leviticus 26:28** (Parallel theme): Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

**Acts 5:33** (Parallel theme): When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

**Psalms 76:10** (Parallel theme): Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

**Leviticus 26:21** (Parallel theme): And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

**Leviticus 26:18** (Parallel theme): And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

**Daniel 5:6** (Parallel theme): Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.