

# 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 Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

## Analysis

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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

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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

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

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

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

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

## Study Questions

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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

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אָנפּ וְהִי	וְצִלָּם	חֶמֶת א	הַתְּמָלִי	נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר	בְּאֵד יוֹ
of his visage	and the form	of fury	full	was Nebuchadnezzar	Then
H600	H6755	H2528	H4391	H5020	H116
נָג וְ	וְעַבְדֵּי	מִישָׁךְ	שִׁדְרָךְ	עַל	אֲשֶׁתָּנִי
and Abednego	H0	Meshach	Shadrach	against	was changed
H5665		H4336	H7715	H5922	H8133
חַד	לְאַתּוֹן א	לְמִזְיָה:	וְאָמַר	עַנֵּה	
one	the furnace	that they should heat	and commanded	therefore he spake	
H2298	H861	H228	H560	H6032	
לְמִזְיָה:	חַד הָ	דִּי	עַל	שִׁבְעָה	
that they should heat	it was wont	than	against	seven times	
H228	H2370	H1768	H5922	H7655	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 3:13** (Parallel theme): Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. 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 scorner 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.