**Daniel 3:21-23**

[*https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/dan/dan-3/daniel-321-23/*](https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/dan/dan-3/daniel-321-23/)

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego are thrown into the fiery furnace, clothed and bound. The soldiers who escort them are killed by the intense heat of the flames.*

For the crime of refusing to bow to a golden statue, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego are condemned to die in a *furnace of blazing fire*. The fire has been heated seven times as hot, and the king’s strongest warriors are escorting them to be executed. The three (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego) are *tied up*fully clothed, still wearing their *trousers, coats, caps, and other clothes.*Perhaps the author mentions this detail to show the haste in which they are being executed; all the events of this story are quite possibly occurring on a single day. The furnace was already burning when the statue dedication began, as a grim motivator to Nebuchadnezzar’s subjects to bow to the statue.

The moment of execution comes. The soldiers *cast*the three *into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.*Due to the *urgent command*from the king, and because *the furnace had been made extremely hot*, there are unintended victims in this fit of outrage. *For this reason* (the fire’s heat and the rushed nature of the execution) *the flame of the fire*kills the mighty soldiers escorting Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Nebuchadnezzar has just inadvertently destroyed some of his finest warriors due to his rage. The *three men*, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego fall *into the midst of the furnace still tied up*.

**Biblical Text:**

**21 Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their *other* clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire. 22For this reason, because the king’s command *was* urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. 23But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire *still* tied up.**