

Anger and Love
Zephaniah 3

Review:

1. God reveals His mercy and grace along with His anger and justice in both Old and New Testaments.
2. God's anger is intended to discipline His people, correcting them because He loves them.
3. On the Great Day of the Lord, God's fire will consume those who haven't already been purified by the fire of His Holy Spirit

Reflect:

1. Are you looking forward to the return of Christ? Why or why not?
2. Knowing the intensity of God's love for you, how should you respond to Him? Are there changes you need to make in your life in order to make such a response?

Go Further: Read II Chronicles 35:20-24

1. After King Josiah had repaired the Temple and reinstated the celebration of Passover, why did the king of Egypt pass through the land of Judah? Where was this king going?
2. What did Josiah do in response to this invasion?
3. According to verse 21, who did the King of Egypt claim that he was not trying to fight?
4. What did the King of Egypt claim God had told him to do?
5. What did the King of Egypt say would happen if Josiah interfered with his plans?
6. According to verse 22, what did Josiah do before he went into battle with the Egyptians?
7. According to the author of II Chronicles, Who told the King of Egypt to warn Josiah?
8. Where did Josiah attack the King of Egypt?
9. What happened to King Josiah during the battle? What did the king tell his servants to do?
10. What happened to Josiah after he returned to Jerusalem? Where was he buried?
11. How did the people of Judah and Jerusalem react to Josiah's death?

Summary and Application:

1. The King of Egypt claimed that God had told him to warn Josiah not to attack him, and II Chronicles 35:22 affirms that his words came "from the mouth of God." The Pharaoh of Egypt also rebuked Abraham for his unfaithfulness concerning his wife Sarai (Genesis 12:18-20). Have you ever received a word of warning or correction from an unbeliever? Should Christians always dismiss such advice?
2. Why do you think Josiah tried to disguise himself before going into battle? Have you ever tried to hide what you are doing from God? How did that work out for you?
3. Compare what happened to King Josiah in 35:23 with what happened to wicked King Ahab in I Kings 22:34. Are even the godliest of people immune from the temptation to go against God's will? Is such disobedience ever safe, regardless of how many other good things we may have done?