

The Book of OBADIAH

Pride Goeth Before Destruction

I. Introduction

- A. Now we come to the shortest book in the Old Testament.
- B. It is short, but not sweet!
- C. Obadiah is one of the few prophets that God sent to nations other than Israel:
 - 1. Jonah and Nahum to Nineveh
 - 2. Here Obadiah to Edom.
- D. The problem with Edom is that they hate Israel, and God holds them accountable for how they treat His people (Gen 12).

II. Introduction to the Book of Obadiah

- A. Author: Obadiah under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 899-795 B.C. (Contemporary of Jonah, Hosea)
- C. Theme: Edom should not have rejoiced over the calamity of the judgement upon Israel and Judah.
- D. The significance of the name 'Obadiah':

- 1. Means "Servant of Jehovah" - There is no greater title!
- 2. We don't know who this Obadiah was, or where he came from.

Principle: It is not just the messenger, but the message that is important. Note Phil 1:1; James 1:1.

- E. Obadiah's audience: The _____ (descendants of Esau).
 - 1. Some background:
 - a. Birth of twins: Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:34), which are set against each other from birth.
 - b. NOTE: Esau means "hairy"; Jacob means "deceiver";
 - c. Esau's name gets changed to Edom which means "red";
 - d. Adam means "red", or "ruddy".
 - e. Jacob's name gets his name changed to Israel which means "prince with God".
 - f. SPIRITUAL LESSON:
 - 1) Esau comes out first, then Jacob. They start off into a war then doesn't end until the millennium.
 - 2) The same goes for the "flesh", and the "spirit."
 - 3) First comes Cain, THEN Abel.
 - 4) First comes the water birth, THEN the spirit birth (John 3:5-7).
 - 5) See Gal 5:17. You are born with your flesh, but when get born-again, then enters the Holy Spirit, and a battle commences!
 - 2. Esau (Edom) develops an advanced governmental system earlier than his brother Jacob (Israel) (Gen 36).
 - 3. Edom is idolatrous in its worship (2 Chron 25:20)
 - 4. When Israel requested passage through the land of Edom to the Promised Land, the Edomites refused and went out to war against Moses and Israel forcing them to go around (Numbers 20).

PRINCIPLE: You cannot "short-cut" your spiritual growth. You cannot get to the place God wants you to be spiritually by working through the "flesh." You are going to have to struggle "around", and against the flesh. Also, the "flesh" will fight your spiritual growth at every turn!

- 5. Under David, the Edomites were subject to Israel (2 Sam 8:14). After the death of Solomon however, they became major trouble to Israel.
- 6. At this point, Edom is watching and rejoicing at Judah's calamity as they are carried away captive to Babylon.

III. Study - "Pride Goeth Before Destruction"

- A. The _____ (vs 1)
1. The message - "You're History Edom!"
 2. The originator of the rumour - the LORD!
- B. The _____ (vss 2-4) - You Have a Problem with Pride
1. Your pride has deceived you (Cf John 7:3-10)
 2. You think that you are invincible:
 - a. They liked "getting high" (joke)
 - b. Note the reference to the "eagle"
 - c. They set themselves "among the stars" (Cf Space Shuttle, airlines, Moon bases, Mars missions). We sure do have a very "up-to-date" Bible!

APPLICATION: Direct application to the people of America and Europe. We think that we are something when we really are nothing! We are deceiving ourselves into thinking that we are "advancing" when really we are in a downward spiral headed for trouble from God.
- C. The Retribution (vss 5-16), or The Divine " _____ "
1. God will balance the books, and boy will you pay. Edom will be "cleaned-out" (vss 5-9)
 2. The reasons for the coming judgement upon Edom (vss 10-16)
 - a. Violence against Jacob (Cf Gen 12:3)
 - b. Participating in the destruction of Jacob (vs 11,14; Cf Rom 12:19)
 - c. Apathy in helping your brother Jacob (vss 12-13)
 - d. God's law of "sowing and reaping" (vss 15, 16)
- D. The _____ (vss 17-21) of Israel
1. NOTE: God is going to use the lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon for one last task before He destroys them completely: to protect His people during the tribulation.
 - a. In the middle of the tribulation, the Jews are told to "flee into the mountains" (Matt 24:15-22, Rev 12:6, 13-16)
 - b. The Antichrist will make war with all nations but will not be able to conquer these three countries (Dan 11:36-45)
 - c. The Jews will run to a place called " _____ " (rock), or "Sela" which was the ancient capital of Moab (Isa 16:1-5) and will hide there 3 1/2 years.
 2. Notice where God centres His attention: _____
 3. Jacob becomes a "burning fire" (Jesus Christ, 2 Thes 1:7-10)
 4. The Jews will finally completely possess everything promised to them back in Gen 15 (vs 19)
 5. Those led away captive in defeat will return again soon (vs 20)
 6. Notice the term " _____ " in vs 21 (Cf 1 Cor 6:1-3)
 7. Finally, the kingdom shall be the LORD's (Cf Rev 11:15)

IV. Brief Summary

- A. Obadiah's message is final and it is sure: the kingdom of Edom will be destroyed completely.
- B. Edom has been arrogant, gloating over Israel's misfortunes and when enemy armies attack Israel and the Israelites ask for help, the Edomites refuse and choose to fight against them, not for them. These sins of pride can be overlooked no longer.
- C. The book ends with the promise of the fulfilment and deliverance of Zion in the Last Days when the land will be restored to God's people as He rules over them.

- V. **Practical Application:** God will overcome in our behalf if we will stay true to Him. Unlike Edom, we must be willing to help others in times of need. Pride is sin. We have nothing to be proud of except Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.