

Lesson 8 – Obadiah

Text: Obadiah

Key Passages:

- Obadiah 3-4 – Edom proudly believed it was invincible; God promised to bring it down.
- Obadiah 15 – As Edom had done to Israel, so God would do to Edom.

Background Information:

Though there are few time markers, it seems likely that Obadiah recorded his prophecies during the reign of Jehoram (Judah), though some believe it was recorded much later. The prophecies were directed toward the nation of Edom (sons of Esau) who, since the time of David (2 Samuel 8:12-14), served the nation of Judah. Jehoram was a very wicked king, and God allowed various troubles to come upon his kingdom. It appears that Edom, seeing the trouble that Judah is having, took the opportunity to rebel against Judah, and then rejoiced over the punishment that Judah was experiencing. God was not pleased with Edom's attitude, so He sent Obadiah to prophesy against the Edomites.

If Obadiah was written at this time, he was the first of the writing prophets. Though there had been prophets in the past who had recorded history (such as Moses and Samuel), Obadiah may have been the first to record his prophetic message instead of history. God may have wanted these writings as a testament to the fact that He warned different nations before they were ultimately punished.

Outline:

- I. Purpose: to warn Edom that its destruction was coming for its pride and wicked deeds
- II. All nations would war against Edom because of its pride (1-4)
 - a. Edom would be made small and despised by everyone
 - b. Edom's pride led them to believe that it was much stronger than it truly was (eagle in cliffs)
 - c. No matter how strong they were (real or imagined), God promised to bring them down
- III. Edom would eventually be absolutely destroyed (5-9)
 - a. Thieves and robbers only steal until they have had enough;
 - b. Grape-gatherers do not gather every grape in the field
 - c. However, everything of Edom's would be sought out and destroyed by the Lord
 - d. Even Edom's "friends" would deceive it, ambush it, and take its goods
 - e. No one in Edom was able to understand that this punishment was coming
- IV. Edom was going to be destroyed because of its sins against its brother, Israel (10-14)
 - a. They acted as one of the violent invaders, plundering Israel
 - b. They rejoiced over the fact that Israel was being punished
 - c. They blocked the escape of those who were running from the plunderers
- V. The day of the Lord (judgment) was at hand (15-16)
 - a. As Edom did, so would it be done to it
 - b. As Edom drank from Israel, other nations would drink from it
- VI. Israel would be delivered, but Edom would be consumed forever – potentially Messianic (17-21)
 - a. The house of Jacob would be a fire which would consume the house of Esau (stubble)
 - b. Israel would once again possess and subdue Edom; the kingdom would belong to the Lord

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) Pride deceives us to the point that we believe we are invincible; then we fall (Proverbs 16:18).
- 2.) Those who sin are warned of their impending destruction, but ultimately destroyed by God.
- 3.) God cares deeply for all people in the world, and gave His Son for everyone (1 John 2:2).