

13074-E September 4, 2013

Obadiah: God's Judgment/God's Restoration

Facts on Obadiah

- Shortest prophetic book.
- Nothing is known about Obadiah other than this prophecy.
- Book is interpreted based on the perspective of the reader.

Historical Background

- vs.1b “Thus says the Lord Concerning Edom”.
- Edom another name for Esau
- Jacob /Esau (Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-1-46)
 1. Conflict began in the womb. Vs 22,23
 2. Even at birth “Jacob’s hand was holding his brothers heel”
 3. Esau despises his birthright
 4. Jacob receives fathers blessing
 5. Esau hates Jacob. His descendants follow with animosity.

Example: Numbers 20:14-21

I. Coming Judgment on Edom for Sacking Jerusalem (1-9)

A. Voiced by Obadiah (1-2a)

1. A messenger has been sent about Edom to God’s people
2. Let us rise for battle!

B. Brought down by a Sovereign God (2b-4)

1. For the sin of pride (3)
2. I will make you small and despised
3. You who live in clefts of rocks and lofty place.

Note: The geography given to Edom and terminology of Obadiah....

- Edom was located south of the Dead Sea.
- Petra the “rock city” and capitol was carved from the side of a mountain in the strata of pink sandstone that still exists today in Jordan.
- Along the rugged cliffs ranging from 4-5000 feet in altitude with very narrow accessible passages their high fortress was nearly impenetrable.

- “Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars”....
4. “You who say in your heart, who will bring me down to the ground”?...I will bring you down declares the Lord” (3,4)

“Dwelling in the clefts of the rocks, smugly satisfied, feeling secure from all attack, their impenetrable fortress will now become vulnerable to the Sovereign God.”

GOD IS NOT AFRAID OF HEIGHTS!!!!!!

C. Turned on by Allies (5-9)

1. Thieves would leave more than for you. (5a)
2. Grape gatherers would leave some for the poor.(5b)
3. Esau’s treasures sought out! (6)
4. All allies are against you. (7a) First they were deceived by their own pride now they are deceived by their friends.
5. They have prevailed against you “those who eat your bread” they had a covenant promise with each other.
6. God emphasizes that He will destroy their “wise men” and men of “understanding” as well as their “mighty men” and that in fact “every man will be cut off by slaughter” (8-9)

Note: God is never irrational with His wrath or anger. He clearly specifies as to the severity of His judgment on Edom.

II. The Severity of Judgment (10-14)

A. Violence done to God’s people

1. “Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob” (10)

When and Where?

“On the day when they stood aloof ,on the days that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem”...(11)

The destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

2. Gloating in the day of your brother’s misfortune (12)
3. Rejoicing in the day of their ruin. (13)
4. Boasting in the day of their distress. (14)

B. Eight warnings and indictments (12-14)

“Obadiah’s cadence is that of the incessant beat of a drummer leading troops into battle.” J. Lillie

You should not look down on your brother...
You should not rejoice over the people of Judah...
You should not boast so much...
You should not march through the gates of my people...
You should not look down on them in their calamity...
You should not seize their wealth...
You should not wait for them to cut down their fugitives...
You should not hand over their survivors...

C. The Nature of God’s Judgment (15-16)

1. It’s “near” pending and sure (15a)
2. It’s complete “for all nations.” (15b)
3. It’s reciprocal “As you have done, so shall it be done to you” (15c)
4. It’s continual “so all nations will drink continually” (16)
5. It’s forced “they shall drink and swallow as though they had never been” (16)

NOTE: The terminology implies a slurping sound that comes from being forced to drink without stopping.

III. Restoration of God’s Covenant People (17-21)

A. A day of Deliverance for the House of Jacob (17-18)

1. A remnant in Jerusalem will participate in Edom’s downfall
2. Esau will be consumed by the flame and fire of God’s chosen.

B. A day of Restoration for Israel (19-21)

1. The boundaries will be restored and increased (19-20)
2. The deliverers of God’s kingdom will be the former exiles (21)
3. A promise for the establishment and rule of God and His Church.

IV. Redemptive themes:

“Obadiah can only be understood through the Kingdom of Jesus Christ”
John Calvin

- A. Edom/Esau represents the seed of the serpent and the spirit of the world bent on crushing and prevailing over God’s purposes and Church.
- B. Jacob represents the seed of the woman, Christ, who would bruise the serpents head on Calvary so that even the gates of hell would never prevail over His bride the Church.