



Minor Prophets Part 1

Lesson 6: Obadiah

1. Introduction to Obadiah

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament, and it consists of only twenty-one verses.

The personal history about Obadiah is unknown

The name, Obadiah, means _____

His prophecy centers around the feud between Edom and Israel. It has once central theme – God’s judgement on Edom, the descendants of Esau.

The two nations of Edom and Israel were bitter enemies.

The Edomites, descendants of Esau, had held a grudge against Israel since Jacob had cheated Esau out of his birthright.

The prophecy deals, particularly with Edom. The date of Obadiah’s prophecy appears to have been shortly before or after Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion of Israel. Edom was conquered by the king of Babylon not long after that event.

Jacob, of course was chosen by God to inherit the birthright and become the father of the nation of Israel. Esau was known as a man with a lack of faith. He lived as a man of living only for himself. Esau is a type of the carnal man.

Edom was always an enemy of God’s people in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, this is a picture of the flesh warring continually against the Spirit.

Obadiah rebuked the people of Edom for rejoicing and treachery during the destructive siege of Jerusalem.

Obadiah 10

2. Edom's pride

- _____

Obadiah 3

Their attitude was the same attitude Goliath had toward David.

- Their pride gave them a false sense of security.

Proverbs 16:18

- _____

Even though the Edomites lived in high, inaccessible cliffs, God promised to bring them down.

Obadiah 4

- Since they had exalted themselves, they would be destroyed.

Proverbs 17:19

Obadiah 12

3. Edom's sin against Israel was the violence and betrayal against them, especially during the invasion.

- There were many things that added to the rivalry between Edom and Israel. When the Israelites came out of Egypt, they begged to Edomites for passage through their country. It was refused.
- Obadiah is dealing specifically when Jerusalem was destroyed. The destruction of Jerusalem brought great joy to the Edomites.

- _____

Obadiah 11

- Edom rejoiced when Israel was destroyed and put into bondage.

Obadiah 12

- _____

Obadiah 13

- They blocked the way of escaping fugitives from Jerusalem and even helped capture fleeing Israelites.

Obadiah 14

4. Edom's punishment from God.

- Just retribution, The Day of the Lord is near.

Obadiah 15

- Edom would share Judah's suffering. What they sowed they will reap.

Obadiah 15

- Edom's punishment was utter destruction.

Obadiah 18

5. Mount Zion's deliverance

- Zion is to become a sanctuary of deliverance.

Obadiah 17

- Israel shall possess the possessions of Edom.

Obadiah 17

6. The Millennium

- _____

Obadiah 17

- Obadiah foretells the restoration of Israel, including the return of exiles.

Obadiah 20, 21

7. What can we learn from Obadiah?

- Pride makes us blind, especially when we feel secure.

Obadiah's central target is Edom, a nation that thought its geography, alliances, and cleverness made it untouchable.

When we feel safe, smart, or superior, we are least likely to notice our own moral failures.

Some people assume that their success proves they are right.

Proverbs 16:18

Matthew 7:3-5

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Edom didn't just attack Israel; they stood by and benefited while others did.

Obadiah condemns them for watching suffering without intervening.

Proverbs 24:11, 12

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” – John F. Kennedy

Silence, in some cases, can be a form of participation.

- Hope does not come from domination, but restoration.

The book ends not with Edom's fall, but with God's reign and the restoration of what was broken.

The goal of God's justice is not to humiliate someone. It is to bring healing and put things in right order.

8. Conclusion

We are supposed to live holy lives before the Lord. We should show kindness to our enemies.

God has not deserted His people, and nations that oppress Israel and the Jews will call down His judgments.