

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Obadiah v10-14**.
- B. Obadiah is a short book (one of the “minor” prophets) which can easily be read in one sitting. Hence, we shall discuss it in its entirety tonight.
- C. The date of the book is about 845 B.C., which makes it one of the first of the prophetic books ever written.

I. TWO BASIC PARTS AND LESSONS IN THE BOOK.

- A. Here are the two parts in which the book is divided:
 - 1. Edom’s destruction (1-16).
 - 2. Israel’s salvation (17-21).
- B. There are two basic lessons given in the book, they are:
 - 1. The **consequence of pride**.
 - 2. The **sin of neutrality**.

II. OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION.

- A. The reason for the fall of Edom was pride (Obadiah v1-4):

The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom-- We have heard a report from the LORD, And an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, “Arise and let us go against her for battle”-- 2 “Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised. 3 “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’ 4 “Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” declares the LORD.

 - 1. The message was given to Israel concerning Edom (1).
 - 2. The Edomites felt protected in the clefts of the rocks in their city called Sela or Petra.
 - 3. The arrogance of their heart had deceived them (3).
- B. Edom’s fall was complete and total (Obadiah v5-9):

“If thieves came to you, If robbers by night-- O how you will be ruined!-- Would they not steal only until they had enough? If grape gatherers came to you, Would they not leave some gleanings? 6 “O how Esau will be ransacked, And his hidden treasures searched out! 7 “All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border, And the men at peace with you Will deceive you and overpower you. They who eat your bread Will set an ambush for you. (There is no understanding in him.) 8 “Will I not on that day,” declares the LORD, “Destroy wise men from Edom And understanding from the mountain of Esau? 9 “Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman, In order that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.

 - 1. Verses 5 and 6 state a complete destruction with nothing left.
 - 2. Those who were previous allies will become foes.
 - 3. Both the wise and the strong will be brought down (8,9).
- C. The sin of neutrality (Obadiah v10-14), notice the progressive nature of sin:

“Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever. 11 “On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem-- You too were as one of them. 12 “Do not gloat over your brother’s day, The day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction; Yes, do not boast In the day of their distress. 13 “Do not enter the gate of My people In the day of their disaster. Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity In the day of their disaster. And do not loot their wealth In the day of their disaster. 14 “And do not stand at the fork of the road To cut down their fugitives; And do not imprison their survivors In the day of their distress.

 - 1. In verse 11, they (the Edomites) stood and watched.
 - 2. In verse 12, they boasted and gloated over Israel’s misfortunes.
 - 3. In verse 13, they looted the wealth.
 - 4. In verse 14, they captured the survivors.

- D. The terrors of judgment (Obadiah v15-16):
 “For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. **16** “Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow, And become as if they had never existed.”
1. Condemnation to the Edomites to the extent they did it unto others (see Gal. 6:7).
 2. This verse ends the first section of the book dealing with the destruction of Edom.
- E. The remnant and conquest of Edom (Obadiah v17-20):
 “But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions. **18** “Then the house of Jacob will be a fire And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau will be as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,” For the LORD has spoken. **19** Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain; Also, they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, And Benjamin will possess Gilead. **20** And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel, Who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Will possess the cities of the Negev.
1. This means that the Israelites would possess the things of the Edomites.
 2. Edom would burn very quickly, like stubble, so that no survivors would be left (18).
 3. Nomadic tribes (literal nobodies) would inhabit the clefts of the destroyed Edomites.
- F. Jehovah’s universal rule of all nations (Obadiah v21):
 The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD’S.
1. God has pronounced judgment on Edom, and they are doomed.
 2. Even though it is a Gentile nation, God rules over all of it.

CONCLUSION (PRACTICAL LESSONS OF PERMANENT VALUE).

- A. Human defense are useless when the power of God comes against them.
- B. Ridicule reveals a lack of brotherly love.
- C. Eternal justice will prevail.
- D. Pride goes before a fall (Prov. 16:18; Jas. 4:6).
 (Prov 16:18) Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.
 (Jas 4:6) But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”
- E. The progressive nature of sin:
 1. To look, to gloat, to loot, and to capture.
 2. Also see Jas. 1:14-15.
 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **15** Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

INVITATION.

- A. Crucify pride and remain neutral no more.
- B. It is impossible to remain neutral, say “yes” to God.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Christians, erring Xians.