

I. **NAME AND PERSONALITY OF THE PROPHET.**

- A. We know very little about the author, Obadiah.
- B. He is not to be confused with the other Obadiah's of the OT.
- C. The name *Obadiah* means "worshipper of God" or "servant of God."
- D. The work produced is more important than the worker.

II. **THE TIME OF THE BOOK AND THE PROPHET.**

- A. Two dates have been suggested by internal evidence; 845BC and 586BC.
- B. There are several reasons to accept the early date:
 - 1. Judah will again subjugate Edom (see v17 and 2Chr. 25:5-14).
 - 2. Obadiah omits three things during the 586BC destruction:
 - a. The razing of the walls (2Kgs. 25:10).
 - b. The burning of the royal palace (2Kgs. 25:9).
 - c. The burning of the temple (2Kgs. 25:9).
 - 3. The bitterness between the Israelites and Edomites was at its greatest when the Edomites joined forces with foreigners to besiege and capture Judah in 848-841BC (see 2Chr. 21:16-17).

III. **OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF OBADIAH.**

A. Short outline:

- I. Edom's Destruction (v1-16).
 - A. Announcement of Judgment (v1-9).
 - B. Reasons for Judgment (v10-14)
 - C. Severity of the Judgment (v15-16).
- II. Israel's Salvation (v17-21).
 - A. The remnant to escape (v17).
 - B. The conquest of Edom and other nations (v18-20).
 - C. God's rule from Mount Zion (v21).

B. Long outline:

- I. Explanatory Introduction (v1).
 - A. Communication: "The vision of Obadiah."
 - B. Source: "Thus saith the lord God."
 - C. Object: Edom.
 - D. Subject: There is a movement among the nations against Edom.
- II. Judgment Declared (v2-9).
 - A. God is going to make Edom despised among the nations.
 - B. Edom's pride has deceived her.
 - C. I will bring you down says the Lord.
 - D. The destruction of Edom is to be complete.
 - E. Edom's allies will turn against her.
 - F. Edom's wise and mighty men will fail her; she is doomed.
- III. The Cause of Edom's Judgment (v10-16).
 - A. The facts stated:
 - 1. Violence done to his brother Jacob.
 - 2. Standing aloof and then joined the enemies.

- B. Edom's sins were laid bare.
- C. The day of the Lord: Terror for Edom and the nations.
- IV. Deliverance in Zion: The Kingdom of the Lord (v17-21).
 - A. See Amos 9:11-15; Isa. 2:1-4; Mic. 4:1-5; Ac. 15:15-18.
 - B. The remnant (of Edom) will escape in Mt. Zion.
 - C. The house of Jacob will be exalted, the house of Esau debased.
 - D. The kingdom will be the Lord's from Mt. Zion.

IV. THE THEME AND MESSAGE OF THE BOOK.

- A. The theme of the book of Obadiah is: **The fall of Edom because of cruelty.**
- B. The message of the book of Obadiah is: **God rules in the Nations.**
- C. Lessons that can be applied are:
 1. The consequence of pride (a stronghold that is not strong).
 2. The violence of silence (sin of neutrality).

V. PRACTICAL LESSONS OF PERMANENT VALUE.

- A. Human defenses are utterly useless when the power of God comes against them.
- B. Ridicule is always bad for it reveals a low human pride that means an utter lack of brotherly love.
- C. Eternal justice will prevail.
- D. Pride goes before a fall.
- E. There can be violence in silence (the sin of neutrality).

VI. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

- A. What is at the root of bitter feuds? What is so powerful that the participants don't even desire to end the feud?
- B. What is the worst example of a feud that you know of?
- C. What is the answer to a long-standing, bitter feud? How might this affect your country's foreign policy?
- D. How do you see God's sovereignty at work in the world? What can we do to cooperate with his plans?
- E. How should it affect our actions to know that God reigns over all of history?
- F. Why does God especially hate prideful arrogance in people and nations?
- G. For which sins was God going to judge Edom? Why is this helpful for us to reflect on?
- H. When has application of the Golden Rule influenced your behavior?
- I. What can we hope for in the future? How can we nurture this hope and keep it fresh and alive?