

OBADIAH

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INTRODUCTION

1. Who was Obadiah? All we know for sure is that he was God's spokesman.
V 1 "Thus saith the Lord God"
 - a. As many as 13 Obadiah's mentioned in Old Testament.
 - b. We have no way of knowing if the author was one of them.
 2. DATE: Without more knowledge of author...exact date not possible.
 - a. Could be early or late because events described happened more than once. (II chron. 21) 848-844 B.C. Or
 - b. Psalms 137...Babylonian captivity...possible date 686 B.C.
 3. Message of The Book.
 - a. The sins of Edom, the topic of the book of Obadiah, must have been great in the sight of Jehovah since He had not only this prophet but Ezekiel, Amos, Jeremiah, and the author of Psalm 137 as well portray their sins and the impending doom of the nation.
 - b. Obadiah though the shortest book in the O.T. has within it tremendous truths concerning God's dealings with His own people and the other nations of the earth.
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Who Were The Edomites

1. Birth of Jacob and Esau. "Two nations are in thy womb".
 - a. Israel.
 - b. Edomites...Esau.
 2. Isaac loved Esau.....Rebekah loved Jacob. (Gen. 25:28).
 3. Esau loses his birthright. (Gen. 27).
 4. When Israel crossed the Red Sea and was ready to enter Canaan, were refused permission to pass through Edom because of Esau vengeance. (Number 20).
 5. Edom was later subdued by David (II Sa. 8:14).
 6. Second Kings 2, records a later revolt by Edom.
 7. Jeremiah predicts her final and complete destruction (Jer. 49).
 8. Esau's vengeance for Jacob's getting the blessing was "continuous until Herod the Great" who as "Idumean on his father's side."
 9. Edom is Gone...."What soever a man soweth that shall he reap."
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OUTLINE

- A. The announcement to the Edomites of their impending doom and complete destruction because of the divine judgment against them. (V. 1-9).
 1. *"For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.*
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 2. Destruction would be total...trusted in their allies instead of God/

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OUTLINE, cont.

3. Trusted in their position...Natural defense.
 4. Their destruction would be such, that they would be but a memory for future generations.
 5. Their doom was sealed. God said so.
 - B. What were their crimes that caused this judgment of God upon them?
 1. Cruel and unbrotherly conduct toward Judah at a time of national calamity.
 2. Shame would cover them because of their violence and inhumane cruelty to their kindred.
 3. Rather than being saddened because Israel was being punished, they rejoiced. (V. 12; Psalms 137; Jer. 49).
 4. They were filled with worldly pride just before their fall.
 - C. But Jehovah had great plans involving the remnant of Jews to be carried off into Babylonian captivity. *They must be returned and restored to their land* (vs. 17-21).
 1. Edom would fall and fall forever.
 2. Judah shall “possess their possessions” v. 17. “But upon Mt. Zion shall be those that escape, and it shall be holy.” v. 17.
 3. After 70 years ...Israel returned to Zion.
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LESSONS

- A. “Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people. (Proverbs 17:34).
 1. Our nation has been built by those who believed in God and sought to glorify him. American has a great heritage. But...
 2. “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psalm 9:17).
 3. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).
 - B. **DO NOT ALIGN YOURSELF WITH THE ENEMY.**
 1. In the world....in religious circles.
 2. Or in the church!
 3. “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (II Cor. 6:17-18).
 4. **When one shares the spoil of wrong-doing, though he may not be an instigator of the crime, standing “on the other side” he becomes “even...as one of them” (v. 11).
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LESSONS, cont.

C. GOD'S PROMISE IS TRUE.

1. Edom is gone!
2. Obadiah's vision" was true.
3. Christ is coming. Prepare to meet thy God.

D. PRIDE GOETH BEFORE DESTRUCTION:

1. It did with Edom.
2. Pride promotes strife.

E. AS A PEOPLE SOWS, SO WILL IT REAP.

1. JESUS SAID: "*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*" (Matt. 6:14-15).
 2. In time of divine judgment, God provides a means and a place of escape for those who will turn to Him. The place provided is His Mount Zion.
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REASON FOR THE BOOK

A. One reason God has given us this book today is to show that GOD'S WORD IS TRUE!

1. He declared the complete destruction of Edom and they passed from the pages of history.
2. He promised escape and deliverance for those who return unto Him...His Mount Zion.

B. FOR US TODAY:

1. He has declared the end of the wicked
 - a. From Satan....
 - b. To all whose name is not found in book of life. (Rev. 20 - 22).
 2. A place of Refuge, Security...
 - a. The church here...
 - b. Heaven for eternity.
 3. This Book is a constant reminder that **GOD'S WORD IS TRUE!!**
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