

Obadiah

Minor Prophets – part 5

October 10, 2021

DAY 1

1 The vision of Obadiah.

This is what the Sovereign Lord says about Edom—

We have heard a message from the Lord:

An envoy was sent to the nations to say,
“Rise, let us go against her for battle”—

2 “See, I will make you small among the nations;
you will be utterly despised.

3 The pride of your heart has deceived you,
you who live in the clefts of the rocks[a]
and make your home on the heights,

you who say to yourself,
‘Who can bring me down to the ground?’

4 Though you soar like the eagle
and make your nest among the stars,
from there I will bring you down,”

declares the Lord.

God gave Obadiah this prophesy at a time when Babylon was carrying the Israelites into exile and when neighboring Edom was exploiting their downfall.

1. Most OT prophesies were directed to Israel. Who is Obadiah’s prophesy directed to?
2. Why is God going to “bring you down?”
3. Is there any sense of repentance in the picture, yet?
4. From the Israelite point of view, would it be just for God to bring down their enemy?
5. Have you ever felt a “pride of heart” and a sense that “nobody can bring me down?”

DAY 2

10 Because of the violence against your brother Jacob,
you will be covered with shame;
you will be destroyed forever.

11 On the day you stood aloof
while strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were like one of them.

12 You should not gloat over your brother
in the day of his misfortune,
nor rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their destruction,
nor boast so much
in the day of their trouble.

13 You should not march through the gates of my people
in the day of their disaster,
nor gloat over them in their calamity
in the day of their disaster,
nor seize their wealth
in the day of their disaster.

14 You should not wait at the crossroads
to cut down their fugitives,
nor hand over their survivors
in the day of their trouble.

1. What are Edom's sins?
2. Against whom were the sins committed?
3. Is there any sense of repentance in the picture, yet?
4. The Edomites gloated while Babylon conquered Judah and carried the Israelites into captivity. The Edomites also attacked some Israelite cities directly. Edom exploited Israel's tragedy. How might the Israelites have thought about God's justice as they were being carried away? How might they have thought about God's promise to make Abraham's descendants into a great nation?
5. Have you ever questioned God's justice and God's fulfillment of promises?

DAY 3

5 “If thieves came to you,
if robbers in the night—
oh, what a disaster awaits you!—
would they not steal only as much as they wanted?
If grape pickers came to you,
would they not leave a few grapes?
6 But how Esau will be ransacked,
his hidden treasures pillaged!
7 All your allies will force you to the border;
your friends will deceive and overpower you;
those who eat your bread will set a trap for you,[b]
but you will not detect it.
8 “In that day,” declares the Lord,
“will I not destroy the wise men of Edom,
those of understanding in the mountains of Esau?
9 Your warriors, Teman, will be terrified,
and everyone in Esau’s mountains
will be cut down in the slaughter.

1. How severe will the punishment be?
2. Is there any sense of repentance in the picture, yet?
3. From the Israelites’ point of view, will justice be served?
4. Do you find it difficult to follow the teaching in Romans, “Do not take revenge ... but leave room for God’s wrath?”
5. Do you trust God to exercise perfect justice?
6. Do you find it difficult to follow, at the same time, the teaching in Proverbs, “Do not gloat when your enemy falls?”

DAY 4

15 “The day of the Lord is near
for all nations.

As you have done, it will be done to you;
your deeds will return upon your own head.

16 Just as you drank on my holy hill,
so all the nations will drink continually;
they will drink and drink
and be as if they had never been.

17 But on Mount Zion will be deliverance;
it will be holy,
and Jacob will possess his inheritance.

18 Jacob will be a fire
and Joseph a flame;
Esau will be stubble,
and they will set him on fire and destroy him.

There will be no survivors
from Esau.”

The Lord has spoken.

1. What is the “day of the Lord?”
2. What is foretold for Jacob and Joseph, God’s people?
3. What is foretold for Esau, or Edom, the enemy of God’s people?
4. Which nations will be subject to the day of the Lord and will receive full justice?

DAY 5

19 People from the Negev will occupy
the mountains of Esau,
and people from the foothills will possess
the land of the Philistines.

They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria,
and Benjamin will possess Gilead.

20 This company of Israelite exiles who are in Canaan
will possess the land as far as Zarephath;
the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
will possess the towns of the Negev.

21 Deliverers will go up on[c] Mount Zion
to govern the mountains of Esau.
And the kingdom will be the Lord's.

1. What people will finally be in control?
2. Who will rule the kingdom?
3. The sinful pride and complacency of Edom is like the sin in our own hearts. God has the power to destroy that sin completely and to install his own kingdom in its place. God will deliver perfect justice, but also perfect grace for his people. Have you asked God to do so? Do you trust God to do so?