



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

Prophets Series Lesson 3– October 25, 2015

I. The Book of Obadiah

II. Obadiah Key Points:

1. Book Information:

- a. Prophet Obadiah is the author
- b. Some question of date, but usually attributed to around 605 to 586 B.C.
- c. Shortest book in the Old Testament, with only 21 verses
- d. During Babylonian attacks on Jerusalem
- e. Parallels with Jeremiah 49:7-22; some speculate a contemporary of Jeremiah

2. Audience:

- a. Writes an oracle telling the people of Edom (unbelieving, enemies of God; Gloated over Israel's devastation by foreign powers) that they will taste the wrath of God due to their attacks and treatment of hostility towards the people of Judah.
- b. Edom's hostile activities have spanned the centuries of Israel's existence (Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Duet., 1 Samuel, Psalms, 2 Kings, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos)
- c. Edomites are related to the Israelites, their hostility is more unforgiveable
- d. Edom is fully responsible for their failure to assist Israel and her open aggression
- e. Fact that God rejected Esau (Genesis 25:33, Genesis 36:8, Mal 1:3, Romans 9:13) does not exonerate the Edomites

3. **Obadiah's Hope:** Though an oracle of judgment for the Edomites, Obadiah was a prophetic word of hope to God's people. Within Obadiah's poetic words of doom, God is publically declaring, through Obadiah, that He will punish the oppressors of His people.

III. Scripture Teachings:

1. Verses 1-2: God is promising warfare and is angry at the treatment of His people.
2. Verses 3-4: Edom is being shown as proud, puffed up, and living lavishly while mocking all those around them. Edom took advantage of the crumbling sins of others. Edom was a secure area, and they were a wealthy and self-sufficient people. They thought they were untouchable by anyone. This feeling of security and pride lead to a feeling that they did not need God.
3. Verses 10-14: God is promising to destroy Edom because of her sins against God and for her treatment of His people. When Judah was being attacked and crumbling, Edom relished in her suffering and took advantage of their situation. They sought temporary preservation rather than taking refuge in the promises of God. Anyone who does not help God's people is God's enemy.

4. Verses 15-18: As Edom had done to Judah, God will in turn pour out His wrath upon the people of Edom. Edom had chosen a side against God and his people. And the sins of the Edomites will come back to haunt them. The New Testament is also clear about how people treat others will be how they are judged.
 - a. The Day of the Lord represents the “Day of Judgement”, but also Salvation. Pure Justice comes with wrath against the sinful, revelation of all our actions
 - b. Mount Zion is our refuge, escape from the wrath and judgement to come

5. Verses 19-21: The Day of the Lord (final judgment) will end in the full extent of God’s rule of the Promised Land. This is a theme that runs throughout the Bible, where God’s humbled people will in turn rule alongside God in the reign of Christ. And those who have resisted His rule will finally be humiliated. Obadiah anticipates the fulfillment of Christ, where His conquering of death provides His people to see hope in Him.
 - a. Israel reclaiming the lands after the Day of the Lord
 - b. Kingdom of God fulfilled in Vs 21
 - c. Christians are exiles under the current times until God’s Kingdom returns; Wait and repent; Evil will be in charge now, but vengeance is the Lord’s

IV. Small Group Questions:

1. What does Obadiah teach us about how we should respond in people's misfortunes? Especially people who are not our dear friends?

2. In Verses 1-2, What is God promising to those who treat His people unfavorably? How did God respond to Edom’s actions of participating in the destruction of Jerusalem?

3. In Verses 3-4, How did Edom see herself? Why does Edom act this way? Correlate Edom’s decisions to our own, how can we add “false security” to our life? Discuss what it looks like to completely trust in Him, while making wise decisions?

4. In Verses 10-14, Why is God promising to destroy Edom? Are there opportunities to help others that we bypass because of essentially the same reasons as the Edomites?

5. In Verses 15-18, How would wrath be carried out in the fall of Edom? Since we have all acted imperfectly, in sin, towards other people, how does Obadiah prophecy impact us? What does it tell us about our behavior?

6. In Verses 19-21, What would be the fate of Edom's lands? Does this correlate with current day fate for “People of God” and those that oppose? What does this say about our hope in God?