

Lesson 1

Obadiah, verse 1, **OBADIAH, THE SERVANT OF GOD**

Introduction:

Like the Book of Jude, this book was not divided into chapters. Also, like Jude, it is short. Its name comes from its writer. There were thirteen different men in the Old Testament who were named Obadiah. The writer of this book is not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. He lived after Hosea, Joel and Amos and before Jeremiah. Thus, he lived after the fall of Samaria and before the fall of Judah. The word, Obadiah, means “Servant of God.”

This is most of what we know of him. The rest is revealed in this brief book. We do not know if he was a priest like Ezra or a court prophet like Isaiah or a shepherd like Amos.

I. Why does one become a servant of God?

A. It is partially because of the influence of others.

1. Obadiah's countrymen influenced him to serve God. (Practically the whole nation worshiped God at least outwardly. If he had been born in a foreign country, he would have been influenced to worship in idolatry.)
2. Obadiah was influenced by his family. (He was carried regularly by his parents to worship Jehovah God. In his home he was taught by his parents to worship God. His own religious views were influenced by their views.)
3. Obadiah was influenced by the Holy Scriptures. (From his early youth he had been taught to memorize many Scriptures and they must have had a great impact upon his life.)
4. The whole society in which Obadiah lived was geared to influence him and all the youth of his nation to worship and serve God. (Oh, that in America such would be the case today with parents, companions, schools and TV influencing the young to worship and serve God!)
5. Those of us who truly believe in God should try to influence as many, young and old, to worship and serve God.

B. In the final analysis Obadiah served God because his own convictions and choice.

1. There was a time when his parents made his choices for him.
2. But he time came when he had to choose for himself.

II. How does one go about serving God?

A. First one must be saved, Luke 13:3; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:13; John 3:5. (This will take care of the first and greatest need. It will get the inward man ready.)

B. Follow the Lord in Scriptural baptism, Mat. 28:19.

- 1 This is both an act of worship and an act of service.
2. This is not a difficult thing to do. (It is not like when Abraham was asked to offer his son, Isaac on an altar.)
3. Yet even though it is not difficult, it is an important service to God.

C. Be regular in attendance at the house of God

D. Study the word of God, II. Tim. 2:15.

E. Go out and witness for God, Acts 1:8.

G. Obadiah surrendered to the call to be a prophet. (Every saved man should be willing to be called.)

H. Support the work with your finances, I Cor. 16:2.

Conclusion:

1. First come and trust the Lord and be saved, Acts 16:31.

2. In the early history of Texas one New Englander gave \$1000 to missions in Texas. He could not have known that his own brother would be the first convert under the missionary who was supported by his offering. He was richly blessed by his generous offering to missions.

Lesson 2

Obadiah, verse 10 THE WORD OF GOD ABOUT THE EXTINCTION OF THE EDMITES

Introduction:

Obadiah reveals a prophecy about Edom. The whole book is about this prophecy. The nation of Edom was made up of descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother. He was of Abraham, but had no right to the covenant. This prophecy was directed against the nation of Edom as was the prophecy in Amos 1:11-12. However, this prophecy was more severe than the one in the Book of Amos.

I. A study of the prophecy

- A. There was a rumor (report or message) from the Lord, V. 1.
 - 1. The message was that an ambassador is sent among the nations to call them to battle against Edom.
 - 2. In the time of Obadiah Edom was strong and few nations would dare to attack her, but the message was this would change.
- B. The strength of Edom is seen in verse 3.
- C. But God determined to bring her down, V. 4.
- D. The certainty of the destruction of Edom is seen in verses 5 and 6.
- E. Nations which had formerly been friendly to her would plot against her, V. 7-9.
- F. She would be forever cut off, V. 16.

II. The fulfillment of the prophecy

- A. The word of the Lord is at stake. (The prophecy must be fulfilled or God's word would be proven to be false.)
- B. The prophecy was made between the downfall of the two kingdoms of Israel.
- C. At the fall of Judah to Babylon the Edomites were still in their own land. (They would say, "God did not tell the truth.")
- D. Shortly thereafter they were driven out of their land by the Nabatheans.
 - 1. They were driven out of their mountain fortresses into the desert.
 - 2. Many were allowed by the Babylonians to enter into Judah.
 - 3. They would still deny the accuracy of the prophecy.
- E. They were intermingled with the Jews in the return of the Jews to their homeland.
 - 1. They became proselyte Jews.
 - 2. When the Romans came to power over Israel, the Herods, who were Edomites,
 - 3. They would still deny the truth of the prophecy.
 - 4. In 70 A. D. 10,000 joined forces with the Romans and helped the Romans destroy the city of Jerusalem, including the Jewish temple located there.
- F. Immediately thereafter they disappeared.
 - 1. They were destroyed and what few survived intermixed with other races. Probably Arab races)
 - 2. As a distinct race of people, they do not exist today.

III. The truthfulness of the prophecy

- A. God's word is always true;

- B. When God tells you of your won sin God's word is true.
- C. When God's word tells you of heaven and hell, God's word is true.
- D. When it speaks of judgment it is true.
- E. When it speaks of God's love which His Son, Jesus Christ to the cross for you, God's word is true.
- F. When it speaks of God's willingness and power to save lost sinners, God's word is true.

Lesson 3

Obadiah 10 VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL

Introduction:

God had made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham and to his seed. God further promised Abraham, ***“I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee...,”*** **Gen. 12:3**. This covenant was not confirmed to Ishmael, Gen. 21:12. It was confirmed with Isaac, Gen. 26:3. Neither was it confirmed to the sons of Keturah. It was confirmed to Isaac's son, Jacob, Gen. 35:11-12. Yet it was not confirmed to Esau, Jacob's brother.

I. Esau's violence against Israel

- A. Both Israel and Esau became mighty nations.
- B. The Edomites had dealt with great hostility toward Israel, V. 10-14.
 - 1. These verses speak not of the days of the fall of Israel to Babylon.(Obadiah prophesied before that fall.)
 - 2. It probably speaks of an invasion by the Philistines, II Chron. 21:16-17.
 - 3. The Arabians (Edomites) did several things which displeased the Lord, V. 11-14.
- C. This alone was enough to bring God's punishment upon them, but there was more. (They joined with the enemy and fought against Israel during Israel's wars of the Maccabees, and later with an invasion by Rome.)
- D. It seems that some people never learn.
 - 1. After the Philistine invasion God brought the Edomites under the dominion of Judah for years because of they had joined forces with the Philistines..
 - 2. After the Babylonian invasion He drove the Edomites out of their land for a while. .
 - 3. After the war of the Maccabees He again put the Edomites under subjection to Israel.
 - 4. After the Roman invasion He drove them out of their land never to return.
 - 5. Now it is too late for them to learn their lesson.

II. Esau, an example to all the world

- A. Let every nation remember the covenant that God made with Abraham and confirmed with Jacob (Israel).
 - 1. Also look at Germany which persecuted the Jews under Adolph Hitler and which since and become divided.
 - 2. Look at the Ten Day war in which Egypt was severely defeated by Israel.
 - 3. Look at th Six Day war in which Egypt lost much territory to Israel.
- B. When will the nations ever learn not to send their armies against Israel and not to fire explosives on her cities nor send suicide bombers into her villages?
 - 1. And when will they learn not to send their representatives to the United Nations to tirade against God's covenant nation?
 - 2. It is dangerous to speak out and lash out against Israel, not because Israel is a mighty nation, but because Israel has a mighty God.

III. Let us also learn

- A. Let us learn not to take a bitter attitude against Jewish people. (an attitude which the majority

of Jews have even today).

1. But it is not our mission to punish them for that. (It is God's business to administer whatever punishment is due.)

2. It is our business to pray for them, to witness to them and to befriend them.

B. Let us learn that it does not pay to rise up against God.

1. God is able to deal with anybody who is against Him.

2. He was able to deal with the Philistines, the Syrians and the Jordanians.

3. Today He is able to deal with the Palestinians, the terrorists, and with anybody else who oppresses His people.

C. God is even able to deal with you or me.

1. If you are not for Him you are against Him.

2. He is able to save your soul, able to keep you out of hell and able to carry you to heaven if you repent of your sins and trust the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

3. Or, He is able to send you to hell to suffer forever and forever.

D. What God had rather do is to save you.

1. And He will if you will repent of your sins and trust Jesus Christ to save you;.

3. The choice is up to you.

Lesson 4

Obadiah 15-16 THE DAY OF THE LORD UPON THE GENTILES

Introduction:

The primary thought of the text is judgment on the Gentiles. “The day of the Lord” carries the idea of the exaltation of the Lord. He will be exalted by bringing down the Gentile powers. The word, heathen, is translated “Gentiles.” 30 times in the Old Testament. The day was considered near to an everlasting being.

I. The Edomites' example

- A. God spoke to the Edomites reminding them of 2 things:
 - 1. Their violence against Israel
 - 2. The violence which was to come upon them
 - 3. They would reap what they had sown.
- B. This was not only a warning to the Edomites.
 - 1. It was a warning to all the Gentiles.
 - 2. The Day of the Lord was near upon the Gentiles.
 - 3. As God would do to the Edomites even so He would do unto the Gentiles.

II. The explanation for the judgment

- A. “For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink...”
- B. The Holy Mountain is Mt. Zion, where the temple was built.
- C. The Edomites had drunken parties there.
- D. So would the Gentiles continually.
 - 1. They would do so continually from the fall of Judah to Babylon.
 - 2. Then after the Babylonians there would be the Medes and the Persians.
 - 3. After the Medes and Persians there would be the Greeks, the Syrians and the Romans.
 - 4. Since then there has been a constant oppression of the Israelites by the Arab world.

III. The main event of the prophecy is the Armageddon War

- A. The main fulfillment of the Gentiles profaning Mt. Zion is to be by the Anti-Christ and his armies, Ezek. 38:9; Rev. 16:12-14; II Thes. 2:4. .
- B. God will exalt Himself by the following:
 - 1. By the second coming of the Christ, Rev. 19:11.
 - 2. By the splitting of Mt. Olive, Zech 14:1-4.
 - 3. They shall be as though they had never been, V. 16 c.

Conclusion:

This should serve as a warning to all who stand in rebellion against God and have never repented and trusted Jesus for cleansing of their sin.

- 1. It was bad enough for the the Edomites to bring destruction on themselves.
- 2. It will be bad to see immense numbers of Gentiles destroyed in the Armageddon War.
- 3. It will be far worse to see all unbelievers cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.

Lesson 5

Obadiah 17-18 **DELIVERANCE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE**

Introduction:

Everyone wants deliverance of some kind. The sick want deliverance from their illness. The prisoner from his prison, the poor from their poverty and even the rich from those who pose a threat.

I. Those who will have no deliverance

- A. The descendants of Esau, the Edomites, would have no deliverance.
- B. The Gentile armies in the Armageddon will have no deliverance, V.15-16.
- C. For these there will be no deliverance.

II. Deliverance from Mt. Zion

- A. There will be deliverance for somebody. (For God's nation, Israel)
- B. Holiness will also be on Mt. Zion.
 - 1. Holiness will be there in the presence of the Lord, Himself. (He will establish His throne in the temple on Mt. Zion.)
 - 2. From that throne His holy laws and holy teaching will be spread throughout the world.
- C. Israel has long stood in need of deliverance.
 - 1. She will have come through the Great Tribulation, Dan. 12:1; Mt. 24:21-22.
 - 2. The killing of six million Jews in the German Holocaust under Adolph;h Hitler will seem small in comparison.
- D. The Israelites will possess their land in safety.
 - 1. The house of Jacob
 - 2. The house of Joseph

III. The complete destruction of the Edomites, V. 18

- A. Israel will become as a consuming fire to burn the “stubble” of Esau.
- B. As it stands now, there is nothing left of Esau but stubble.
 - 1. The last scene of the history of this nation was when 10,000 Edomites aided the Romans in their campaign against Israel in 70 A. D.
 - 2. After this the nation disintegrated.
 - 3. What few survived intermarried with other Arab people. (Nobody but God knows who they are today.)
- C. In that day they will all be sought out and killed by the Israelites.(*...for the Lord hath spoken it, V. 18*)

IV. Deliverance offered to all the world

- A. The Holiness of God came down from heaven and became a substitute for the guilty sinner to suffer the penalty of his sins. (He did this on the cross.)
- B. Now God offers deliverance to all the world.
 - 1. He offers the guilty sinner deliverance from his sins.
 - 2. He offers deliverance from Satan and all his demon forces.

3. He offers deliverance from the fires of hell. (He offers no deliverance for the person after he goes to hell; He offer deliverance so that he will never go to hell.)
 4. Thus, He offers deliverance from everlasting torment.
- C. He offers this to all who will repent of their sin and trust Jesus Christ for salvation.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus will deliver you right now if you will trust Him now to save your from the penalty of your sins.
2. But if you never acknowledge that you are an unworthy sinner and never ask Him to save you, you will go into the fires of hell and suffer the penalty of your sins forever.
3. If you do not call on Him now and trust Him now to save you, the chances are that you will never do so and, therefore, you will never be delivered.

Lesson 6

Obadiah 17b, 19-21 THE FUTURE POSSESSIONS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Introduction:

Through Obadiah God turns His prophetic camera on the future of His people, Israel. He zooms in on the land which they will possess during millennial times. *“Jacob shall possess their possession,”* V. 17 b.

I. Israel in prophecy (an enlargement of her borders)

- A. In fact, the former borders have already been enlarged. (South of the Dead Sea to the tip of the Gulf of Aquaba)
- B. *“And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau...,”* V. 19 (The southern part of Jordan)
- C. *“...and they of the plain the Philistines...,”* V. 19. (The Gaza strip)
- D. *“...and they shall possess the fields of of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria...,”* V. 19. (including the West Bank and Golan Heights)
- E. *“...and Benjamin shall possess Gilead,”* V. 19 (North Jordan)
- F. *“And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath,”* V 20. (Southern Lebanon)
- G. *“...and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south,”* V. 20 (The Negev, which they already possess.)
- H. This prophecy looks mainly to the millennium, but has a bearing on the present. (Israel already possesses the Negev and has military control of much of the other}.
- I. There is more, Gen. 15:18. (Saudi Arabia and Syria)

II. A Biblical truth illustrated: Great possessions await all of God's people

- A. God has great possessions, Psalm 24:1.
- B. All of God's people are heirs of God, Rom. 8:17.
- C. This applies in two ways:
 - 1. In the millennium they will rule and reign Christ, Rev. 20:6.
 - 2. After the millennium they will inherit the new earth, Rev. 22:1; Mt. 5:5.
- D. God has not promised great possessions now. (What He has promised is to save and spare from hell those who trust Jesus for salvation. That alone is worth more than all the wealth of the world.)
- E. Never-the-less, great riches await the redeemed of God.

Conclusion:

- 1. We are unworthy of the least of God's blessings and deserve only to be tormented for our sins.
- 2. God offers to save out of the goodness of His own heart.
- 3. Do not turn down the salvation of the Lord. (Turn down a million dollars 1000 acres of land, a \$5,000,000 home and the wealth of the world if you must, but do not turn down the salvation of your soul.
- 4. And don't delay to accept God's generous offer. Take Him up on His offer of salvation today. Call on Jesus now and trust Him to save your soul.