

Obadiah

Background

In the book of Obadiah, the prophet speaks God's judgment on the people of Edom.

The main them of Obadiah is the Judgment of God on the nations of the world.

The Edomites are descendants of Esau (Brother of Jacob the father of the Israelite people). The Edomites capitalize on the destruction of Jerusalem by taking advantage of the Israelite people, being indifferent to their suffering, gloating over their misfortune, even committing acts of violence against them while they are down.

Verses 1-9

God starts off by pronouncing the judgment against the Edomites. They lived to the southeast of the southern kingdom of Judah in highly fortified mountainous region. God makes it clear that He regards, and the Edomites should've regarded, the people of Israel as their brothers, not their enemies.

Verses 10-14

God states His case against them, citing the specific acts they committed against the Israelites.

Verse 15

This verse is the median point of the prophet's message. Here God transitions into not only declaring judgment on Edom, but in His sovereignty He also begins to simultaneously declare judgment on ALL nations when "*the day of the Lord*" comes.

Verses 16-18

God describes the nations drinking the cup of His wrath, and how the nation of Israel will one day rise up to consume the nations of the earth, they will possess all that God has for them.

Verses 19-21

Here the Lord describes His Kingdom. The land place names listed describe territories to the north, south, east, and west. In God's kingdom His saints shall rule to the corners of the earth with and under the authority of His King, Jesus.

Verse 21 reads ".....and the kingdom shall be the Lord's" - in the end there will be only one kingdom, HIS Kingdom.

Questions

There are two important questions regarding God's judgment that can be answered from this text.

First – *how are we to relate to God's judgment when it concerns the actions of other people against us or others we care about?* Notice that the audience here are Israelites, not Edomites. God is pronouncing judgment on the Edomites *to* the Israelites. They have been physically harmed, taken advantage of, oppressed, but God doesn't invite them to stand up and pronounce judgment against their oppressors, HE does it Himself, there's never any question who is to judge and pronounce condemnation.

(Read Matthew 7:1-6 and Galatians 6:1 for NT teaching on Biblical discernment/judgment. We are to discern the truth, speak the truth in love and correct where appropriate, but we are not to pronounce condemnation or walk in those attitudes).

Application question – *We know that God pronounced judgment on Edom and He did not invite the Israelites to participate. In what ways do your personality and life circumstance combine to produce a spirit of condemn action toward others, instead of leaving that judgement up to God?*

Second – *how are we to relate to God's judgment when it concerns their relationship as the lost toward the Lord?* As Christians sometimes we tend to dismiss God's judgment on sin since we are not subject to it. Still yet, the day of the Lord, the day of His judgment, should terrify us on behalf of others that we know and (should) care about.

Application question – *our second question poses a question of evangelism and living in light of God's judgment and the reality of hell for all those who are outside of Christ. In what ways in the past have you struggled with sharing your faith? Be specific, record your answers, and bring them with you to the upcoming evangelism classes. Let's be intentional and grow in this area church!*

Here are a couple of links to some great worship songs for family worship time!

<https://youtu.be/IuedrKMVbFk>

<https://youtu.be/uHz0w-HG4iU>