

## Sunday School Lesson

***The Book of Obadiah – Retribution to Enemies of Zion*** (November 3, 2024)

### ***Setting***

- Shortest book in Old Testament
- Obadiah = “servant of Yahweh”; written ~600 BC (probably before Jeremiah)
- Edomites are descendants of Esau and enemies of the descendants of Jacob
- Jerusalem was in Judah’s (son of Jacob) land division
- Edomites plundered Jerusalem 4 times in 300 years, beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> century BC
- King Herod was an Edomite
- Obadiah’s prophecy was regarding the Edomites.

### ***Dating Obadiah***

Difficulty in dating Obadiah because no kings are mentioned. Plunderings that Obadiah was preaching against<sup>1</sup>

926 BC	Shishak’s invasion during reign of Rehoboam	Edom was not independent of Judah
848-841 BC	Philistines & Arabians during reign of Jehoram	Edomites had revolted against Judah
790 BC	Jehoash of Israel	
586 BC	Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar	Edomites refused to assist Judah, and actually aided in destruction

Psalms 137:7-9 ties Edom & Babylon

### ***Obadiah’s Vision***

Obadiah condemned them for:

- 1) Verses 2 - 4 pride & arrogance
- 2) 5 - 7 greed & plunder
- 3) 8 - 9 loss of wisdom & understanding
- 4) 10 – 14 violence & gloating over the suffering of others

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<sup>1</sup> Ogilvie, p. 367.

## ***Judgment of All Nations***

Verses 15 – 16, also Ezekiel 30:3, Jeremiah 25:15-16

This is the cup of the Lord's wrath. There will be tit-for-tat. Edom is one of the nations that Jeremiah's prophecy applied to: they will be getting the cup.

The prophecy of Edom's demise and disappearance did, indeed, come true – there is no mention of them after Herod and the Maccabean revolt.

## ***Deliverance***

Verses 17 – 18

Verses 19 – 21

## ***Summary***

There is no mention of repentance or forgiveness for the Edomites; no opportunity for mercy. But there is encouragement for the Israelites: "the kingdom shall be the Lord's." Isn't this exactly the message Jesus promoted?

Who are your enemies? Are they God's enemies?

God's enemy is Satan. We are supposed to pray for all our other enemies, and we need transformative deliverance from the Holy Spirit to do that.

Don't pick on "God's chosen." There are consequences for pride and arrogance.

Judgment and punishment is God's prerogative. God wins in the end. There is hope in the midst of adversity. "The kingdom shall be the Lord's."

## ***References:***

1. Asbury Bible Commentary (on line),  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search>
2. Harper Study Bible, Revised Standard Version, Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 1985.
3. NIV Bible on-line: <http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm>
4. Ogilvie, Lloyd J., Mastering the Old Testament: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Lloyd Ogilvie, General Editor, Word Publishing, Dallas, TX, 1990, pp. 365-395.

5. Rudolph, Rev. Kevin, The Bible Tour Guide, Rich Publishing Co, Houston, TX, Day 274.

6. Free on-line commentaries:

[http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/new\\_testament\\_studies/new\\_testament\\_studies.htm](http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/new_testament_studies/new_testament_studies.htm)

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