

Obadiah 19-21 The Kingdom

1. The Expansion and Victory 19, 20

A. The Promise to Return When They Just Left

“In that day from the river Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt the Lord will thresh out the grain, and you will be gleaned one by one, O people of Israel. And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.” -Isaiah 27:12-13 ESV

B. Territory that Was Never Officially Taken in by Israel

Edom in the South

““In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name,” declares the Lord who does this.”
Amos 9:11-12 ESV

Philistine Cities of the East

Zaraphath to the North

“and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.” -Luke 4:26 ESV

Original lines that they were supposed to take over in the time of Joshua
“Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, Kanah, as far as Sidon the Great. Then the boundary turns to Ramah, reaching to the fortified city of Tyre. Then the boundary turns to Hosah, and it ends at the sea; Mahalab, Achzib,”
Joshua 19:28-29 ESV

2. Jerusalem 21

A. Jerusalem's Defeat

“Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and wandering all the precious things that were hers from days of old. When her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was none to help her, her foes gloated over her; they mocked at her downfall.” -Lamentations 1:7 ESV

“The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”” -Nehemiah 1:1-3 ESV

B. Jerusalem's Importance

The restoration of Ezra and Nehemiah's day- 450 years before Jesus
The restoration of the Maccabees- 164 years before Jesus

C. The People of Israel

“But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.” -Nehemiah 2:10 ESV

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.””
Romans 10:9, 13 ESV

“I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” But what is God's reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”
Romans 11:1-6 ESV

“Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?” -Romans 11:13-15 ESV

D. The Temptation to Spiritualize Israel

“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.”

Acts 1:6-7 ESV

“But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.” -Romans 11:17-24 ESV

“Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.” -Romans 11:25-32 ESV

3. Do Not Lose Focus on the LORD 21

A. “Deliverers” will come

B. The Kingdom is the LORD’s

“and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”” -Mark 1:15 ESV

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.””

Isaiah 52:7 ESV

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” -Matthew 6:33 ESV

“Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”” -John 3:3 ESV

“Well, this is to receive Christ, Brother. This is to believe on Christ. This is to accept Christ. I don’t say now, you shouldn’t go out and you ever use the word accept, provided you know what it means. For it means to believe in and receive Christ as my Savior, but in to do it, it means an exclusive attachment to the person of Christ that makes His friends my friends, His enemies my enemies, His ways, my ways, His cross my cross, His Life my life, and His future my future. And if things should turn out in this country, that it should be dangerous to follow Jesus, my future is His future. And whatever they do to Jesus, I’ll go along; they’ll do it to me.” AW Tozer, “*What Do We Mean by Accepting Christ?*”

Reflection: How do you receive Christ today? Is He truly your Lord and Savior?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Lamentations 1. What ways does this depiction of Jerusalem help you to understand how damaged and defeated the city was at the time of Obadiah? When you think of Jerusalem today, what is its significance in the world?

Tuesday: Romans 11. What does Paul say about his fellow Jews in this passage of Scripture? Where is your heart with the Jewish people today? Does it concern you that so many are opposed to them even outside of the state of Israel?

Wednesday: Mark 1:15. What does Jesus say about the kingdom in this short verse and how are we to respond?

Thursday: Isaiah 52:7. What does the prophet relate to us in this verse? What does this verse bring up to you?

Friday: Matthew 6:33. Who or what do you seek first?

Saturday: Obadiah. What aspect of Obadiah stands out to you after spending time with this prophet? God’s care to seek His people among the nations? God’s justice against Edom? God’s care in seeing each hurt against His people? God’s promises for the future of Israel and His people?