

Obadiah 1 More Than Not Forgotten

1. The Revelation of Obadiah

A. One Who Serves or Worships the LORD

B. The Time of Obadiah

586 BC right after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

“In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the Lord: “Thus says the Lord: Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’” -Jeremiah 26:1-6 ESV

“How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.” - Lamentations 1:1-3 ESV

C. Revelation

Obadiah’s “prophecy is described as a revelation, a technical term which has to do primarily with seeing a vision, but widened to mean simply a divine communication to a prophet. The prophet was credited in Israel with the gift of inspired insight into the purposes of God.” Leslie Allen

“Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.” -1 Samuel 3:1 ESV

2. The Real God Is About to Speak

A. The Lord LORD

“I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of Lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.” -1 Timothy 6:13-16 ESV

“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” -Genesis 12:1 ESV

“And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”” -Genesis 15:7 ESV

“And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.” -Genesis 28:13 ESV

B. Edom

“Concerning Edom. Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished?” -Jeremiah 49:7 ESV

Esau: Edom’s other name

“Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom: “Thus says your brother Israel: You know all the hardship that we have met: how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we lived in Egypt a long time. And the Egyptians dealt harshly with us and our fathers. And when we cried to the Lord, he heard our voice and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt. And here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your territory. Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through field or vineyard, or drink water from a well. We will go along the King’s Highway. We will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory.” But Edom said to him, “You shall not pass through, lest I come out with the sword against you.” And the people of Israel said to him, “We will go up by the highway, and if we drink of your water, I and my

livestock, then I will pay for it. Let me only pass through on foot, nothing more.” But he said, “You shall not pass through.” And Edom came out against them with a large army and with a strong force. Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory, so Israel turned away from him.” -Numbers 20:14-21 ESV

“Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, “Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!”” -Psalm 137:7 ESV

“Because you cherished perpetual enmity and gave over the people of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of their final punishment, therefore, as I live, declares the Lord God, I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; because you did not hate bloodshed, therefore blood shall pursue you. And you shall know that I am the Lord. “I have heard all the revilings that you uttered against the mountains of Israel, saying, ‘They are laid desolate; they are given us to devour.’ As you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so I will deal with you; you shall be desolate, Mount Seir, and all Edom, all of it. Then they will know that I am the Lord.” -Ezekiel 35:5-6, 12, 15 ESV

““Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a desolate wilderness, for the violence done to the people of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.” -Joel 3:19 ESV

3. We Have Heard a Report

- A. There is something specific to the problem
- B. Justice Does Not Escape the LORD

“But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.” -Micah 4:12 ESV

“Justice, when used of God, is a name we give to the way God is, nothing more; and when God acts justly, He is not doing so to conform to an independent criterion but simply acting like Himself in a given situation.”- AW Tozer.

C. He Has Sought Them Out

D. He Seeks Us Out

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”” -Luke 19:10 ESV

““So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.” -Matthew 10:26-33 ESV

You are not hidden from His sight. He does not forget you.

Reflection: How do you respond to the realities of this passage in Obadiah?

The LORD speaks

The LORD is all powerful

The LORD is just

The LORD seeks us.

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Jeremiah 26:1-6. What two realities of God does Jeremiah’s message teach us?

Tuesday: Lamentations 1:1-3. What is Jerusalem compared to? Have you ever felt the same way in your life? How has God come to your aid?

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 6:13-16. What are some of the words Paul uses to describe who Jesus is? How can the words about Jesus’ greatness help us in our everyday lives?

Thursday: Numbers 20:14-21. What were the Israelites asking for? How did the Edomites respond? What current realities parallel this in the world or in your personal life?

Friday: Luke 19:1-10. How does Jesus’ reaction to Zacchaeus encourage you? What does verse 10 tell us about Jesus’ own mission?

Saturday: Matthew 10:26-33. How does Jesus explain the care God has for us? What is the stern warning Jesus gives?