

Lessons From Obadiah

Mastering In The Minors

(Ob 15)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Mastering In The Minors
 - a. My lesson for this fine day is looking into Obadiah.
 - b. Today we will be looking into four points concerning this great book.
 - i. The Historicity Of Obadiah
 - ii. The Context Of Obadiah
 - iii. The Content Of Obadiah
 - iv. The Biblical Lesson Of Obadiah
3. With that in mind let us examine our lesson today.

I. The Historicity Of Obadiah

A. The author

1. The author is he who bears the name of this most wonderful book, Obadiah.
 - i. Obadiah means “Servant of the Lord.”
2. There are thirteen Obadiah’s in the Bible mentioned.
 - i. “It was a common name among the Jews of that time. It was a name born by a popular Zebulonite of the time of Saul (I Chron. 27:19); a chief servant of the house of Ahab (I Ki. 18:3); a Levite under Josiah (II Chron, 34:12); and several heads of post-exilian houses bore the name also.” (The Minor Prophets: The Prophets of the Decline by Butler, Paul T.)

B. The date

1. Due to the lack of internal evidence within the book itself it is impossible to determine the exact date. We can get within two possible dates because we know it is dealing with an attack on & overcoming of Jerusalem.
 - i. The early date: This will be either 845 B.C. or sometime shortly after.
 - a. **II Ch 21:8-10, 16-17** “In his days Edom revolted from the rule of Judah and set up a king of their own. 9 Then Jehoram passed over with his commanders and all his chariots, and he rose by night and struck the Edomites who had surrounded him and his chariot commanders. 10 So Edom revolted from the rule of Judah to this day. At that time Libnah also revolted from his rule, because he had forsaken the LORD, the God of his fathers... 16 And the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the anger of the Philistines and of the Arabians who are near the Ethiopians. 17 And they came up against Judah and invaded it and carried away all the possessions they found that belonged to the king’s house, and also his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz, his youngest son.”¹

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- ii. The late date: This will be either 586 B.C. or sometime shortly after.
 - a. **Je 39:1-2** “In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city.”
 - 2. Breaking down the two possible dates.
 - i. In 845 B.C. Jerusalem was attacked by the Philistines and Arabians while Jehormah was king.
 - a. First Obadiah, in the Hebrew Bible, is placed fourth in order of the prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah
 - 1. Thus the Hebrews considered the date fairly though this cannot be a conclusive argument.
 - b. Second the writing styles of Jeremiah and Obadiah are actually different.
 - 1. Thus this has led some to conclude different time periods.
 - d. Third there seems to be missing information if this was the later date.
 - 1. During Babylon’s destruction of Jerusalem they destroyed the temple, the royal palace, and the walls completely and most of the remnant left for Egypt afterwards.
 - 2. Yet nothing is mentioned about any of this.
 - ii. In 586 B.C. Jerusalem was attacked and destroyed by Babylon while Zedekiah was king. If this is the date it would put Obadiah and Jeremiah as contemporaries.
 - a. First Obadiah and Jeremiah have some similar verses concerning Edom.
 - 1. **Ob 2:5** **Je 49:9**
 - 2. **Ob 2:6** **Je 49:10**
 - 3. **Ob 2:8** **Je 49:7**
 - b. Second there were many prophecies concerning the Edomites after this destruction of Jerusalem.
 - 1. **La 4:21; Ek 25:12-14; 35:1-15; Ps 137:7**
 - 3. Though there is enough evidence to consider both dates I lean at this time toward the earlier date.
- C. Thus...
- 1. As you can see there is not much historical information we can glean from this powerful little twenty-one verse book.

II. The Context Of Obadiah

- A. To whom the book was written
 - 1. This would be Edom the descendants of Esau.
 - 1. **Ob 1; Gn 25:22-26**

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2. Conflict between Esau and Jacob.
 - i. It started before either Esau or Jacob were born.
 - a. God chose His nation to come from the second born Jacob.
 1. **Gn 25:23**
 - ii. Throughout their lives there was conflict with the two brothers.
 - a. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal.
 1. **Gn 25:29-34; He 12:16**
 - b. Jacob secured the blessing from his father Isaac.
 1. **Gn 27:18-30**
 3. Conflict between Edom and Israel.
 - i. This started at the exodus when Edom would not let Israel pass.
 - a. **Nu 20:14-21**
 - ii. There was constant fighting up to Edom being conquered by David.
 - a. **II Sa 8:13-14**
 - iii. The conflicts began again when Jehoraim was king and Edom revolted.
 - a. **II Ki 8:20-22**
 4. Because of this constant torment of Edom toward Israel God did not think kindly of Edom.
 - i. **Ma 1:3** “but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”
- B. Thus...
1. We can clearly see find Edom

III. The Content Of Obadiah

- A. The book of Obadiah is the shortest book in the entire O.T.
 1. It only has twenty-one verses in total.
- B. Obadiah outline
 1. The Utter Destruction Of Edom Decried (1-16)
 2. The Exaltation Israel To Be Established Upon Mount Zion (17-21)
- C. A closer look
 1. Edom was brought down by God because...
 - i. It was full of age old pride.
 - a. **Ob 3-4** “The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, “Who will bring me down to the ground?” 4
Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the LORD.”
 1. **Pr 16:18** “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”
 2. **Ps 18:27** “For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.”
 3. **Da 4:37** “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”

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- ii. It was violent against God's children.
 - a. **Ob 10-11** "Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. 11 On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them."
 - 1. **Zp 2:8-10** "I have heard the taunts of Moab and the revilings of the Ammonites, how they have taunted my people and made boasts against their territory. 9 Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Moab shall become like Sodom, and the Ammonites like Gomorrah, a land possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a waste forever. The remnant of my people shall plunder them, and the survivors of my nation shall possess them." 10 This shall be their lot in return for their pride, because they taunted and boasted against the people of the LORD of hosts."
 - 2. Israel will be exalted by God because...
 - i. It was God's chosen people.
 - a. **Ob 21** "Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's."
- D. Thus...
 - 1. We can clearly see God's disdain for those that, through pride, bring violent harm to His people.

IV. The Biblical Lesson Of Obadiah

- A. God loves His children
 - 1. A few years back Texas had a slogan which said, "Don't mess with Texas."
 - i. It was a commercial that was attempting to reduce littering.
 - 2. When we look throughout history there is a constant cry God's enemies, "Don't mess with My children!!!"
 - i. Could there be a more fearful thing than to upset a parent?
 - a. Yet that is what nations have been doing for years and years.
 - 3. Brethren the reason we don't have to worry about our nation or any other nation catering to heathenism and its apparent love of persecuting Christians is because we have a Mighty Protector, God Almighty.
 - i. God's children are His own special people.
 - a. **I Pt 2:9** "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (NKJV)
 - ii. God's children are under His protection then.
 - a. **II Sa 22:3-4** "my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. 4 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies."

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- b. **II Th 3:3** “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.” (NIV)
- c. **He 13:5** “...I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
- d. **Is 41:10** “fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

B. Thus...

- 1. Let us always seek the protection and shelter of our Great and Almighty God.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren the book of Obadiah is one that should comfort us and help us see how much our God cares for us.
 - a. He will never allow anyone or any nation to get away with violence towards His people.
- 2. Question: Do you trust in God enough to rely on His protection and love?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**