

Read Obadiah

For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. Ob 1:15

"The Cold War." I was in Jr. High and picking out books for the weekend from our school library (yes, I was one of those kids). I thought the book was going to be about some winter war, but I soon realized the book was about a war we were currently in! The term was coined while the Soviet Union and the United States fought a war of numbers. Both nations were building up their nuclear arsenals, and many people thought the only result from such buildup would be nuclear war. As I read I soon came to the conclusion that a nuclear confrontation wasn't all that likely because of M.A.D. (Mutually Assured Destruction). If one nation tried to blow up the other, the nation on the receiving end would send all their nukes back and the entire thing would be pretty pointless.

The point here is that we tend to receive what we give. When I show people compassion, I generally find that compassion is given back. When I am friendly, I usually find people are friendly to me as well. Once again, just as in Amos, we see a picture of God calling the nations together again for judgment. And God says that as you deal is how you're dealt with. Those who ignored God during their lives will find God ignoring them right back. Not because He doesn't love us, but because God is just. Having our dealings turned on our own heads doesn't have to be a threat if our dealings are that of love and a Christ-like attitude towards others. Don't expect preferential treatment if you weren't willing to give it. **What repayments have you been receiving? Are you sharing the gospel and as a result, being encouraged by your interactions with new believers? Are you hiding sin and as a result finding your devotional life sporadic out of shame? Are you prioritizing people and finding friends, or prioritizing yourself and feeling alone? We must not act so surprised when the very things we do are done to us.**