MINOR PROPHETS, MAJOR LESSONS
The Minor Prophets Series #6
November 22nd, 2026

TEXT: Obadiah 1:1-21

CONSIDER THIS: With just 21 verses Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament, but it is loaded with truth that helps us understand not only the past but explains what we see in the world today. This is a classic example of **MINOR PROPHETS, MAJOR LESSONS**.

I. "EDOM, YOU ARE FINISHED!"

A) The prophet Obadiah announced a devastating prophecy against the nation of Edom in 1:1-9. Their pride made them think they were untouchable (1:1-4).

B) The land that was once home to Edom is today part of Southern Jordan and Southern Israel. Edom, both the nation and its people, are extinct. They were finished off by the Roman Empire in 70 AD, but their decline began shortly after Obadiah's prophecy.

GOD KEPT HIS WORD

II. WHY WAS EDOM DESTROYED?

A) The conflict between Edom and Judah had gone on for centuries. **It began in Rebekah's womb!** See Genesis 25:21-24

KEY: The nation of Edom was Esau's descendants… twin brothers became two distinct nations.

B) Genesis 25:29-34 tells the important story of Esau (the older of the two twins) selling his birthright to Jacob for a single meal. This is **HUGE**, **HUGE**, **HUGE**!! God's sacred promises to Abraham and Isaac meant so little to Esau that he was willing to step out from under the role of patriarch (once Isaac had died). Jehovah is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and **Jacob** in Exodus 3:14-16.

In the account of Esau selling his birthright we are shown a portrait of the human heart that is earthly minded and focused on temporary things. There is no reverence for God or serious interest in spiritual matters or the things of eternity. Even today the vast majority of people go through life treating God as an afterthought. Esau was "a secular man" and he would fit right in today's world. Christian, remember that to be ALIVE means **A**lways **L**iving **I**n **V**iew of **E**ternity.

C) After Jacob deceived his father Isaac and tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing intended for Esau, Esau hated Jacob and planned on killing him (Genesis 27:41-44). The conflict between Jacob and Esau became the destiny of two nations, Judah and Edom.

D) Edom's greatest crime against Israel was denying them permission to pass through Edom after Moses led Israel out of Egyptian slavery and was leading them to the Promised Land (Numbers 20:14-21).

E) The specific reasons God pronounced final judgement against Edom was because when Judah was attacked and overwhelmed by the Babylonians, Edom:

1. helped pillage Judah's wealth (v.10-11)
2. gloated over Judah's loss (v.12-13)
3. denied refuge to Jewish survivors (v.14)

NOTE: King Herod the Great, a descendant of Edom, tried to kill the infant Jesus in Matthew 2:13-15.

III. EVERY NATION ANSWERS TO GOD

For the day of the LORD is near upon all nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. (Obadiah 1:15)

A) The "day of the LORD" is a specific time appointed by God, still in the future, when He will judge the nations.

B) The United States, if it still exists, will be included in the day of the Lord.

NOTE: There once was a nation that would never think of its government apart from prayerfully thanking God and humbly seeking His help for the government and the people. This government frequently passed resolutions calling upon its people to confess their sins to God and acknowledge their need for Him. I don't think that country exists anymore, but if you want to know more about it read George Washington's inaugural address delivered on April 30, 1789.

C) But there is hope for all the nations, even though the day of the LORD begins with judgement when Christ returns. But after that, Christ will rule over a world where all nations worship Him and are blessed by Him. See Isaiah 19:23-25!! See also Isaiah 2:1-5.

IV. WHAT DOES OBADIAH SAY TO ME?

A) How easily we get immersed in the daily things of life. Like Esau, we focus so much on the "here and now" that we don't prioritize our relationship with God and the things that count for eternity.

B) O what peace we often forfeit when we fail to believe that the God who orchestrates and commands the destinies of nations has a plan for our lives down to the smallest details. Christian, His plan for you is consistent with His love, wisdom, compassion and grace (even when you don't understand it!).