



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

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Issue 13

BIG LESSONS FROM A LITTLE BOOK

By: Wayne Jones

Of all the minor prophets Obadiah might be the most minor of them all. Keep in mind that this designation is neither about rank nor importance. The term “minor prophet” is simply a nickname earned by the sheer volume and length of these books. Of the 12, Obadiah is the shortest. This one chapter, 21-verse book is not only shorter than the other 11 Minor Prophet books, it’s the shortest book in all the Old Testament.

There are a few other “minor” issues that you might encounter when studying this book. For example, there are more than a dozen men in Scripture with this name and there is no strong evidence (only certain Jewish traditions) that even hint at which Obadiah might be the author. Likewise, scholars are divided on the date of writing. Dates attributed to this book stretch all the way from 900 BC to 400 BC. While there might be some internal evidence that helps and suggests an earlier date (see verse 12), this is still subject to debate. Even the recipients of the book are somewhat minor. The Edomites were the decedents of Esau, Jacob’s twin brother who was deceived out of his blessing and sold his birthright. He was the lesser of the two brothers in the scheme of redemption and God’s covenant promises to Abraham. The Edomites were not minor in receiving God’s blessings, care, and even protection. However, the Old Testament is not their story and the Messiah did not come through their family.

Even with all of these “minor” issues, the lessons found in it are major. Let’s consider three of them this week. I would suggest

reading this book in a single sitting before giving attention to these lessons.

First, we cannot ever get so high that God will not bring us down (1-9). Edom took advantage of the topography of their land and used it to flex their national muscle against many people –including that nation of Israel. They took pride in their seemingly impregnable position in the clefts of the rocks and allowed the confidence to mushroom into full-blown pride. Obadiah revealed their high position brought an arrogance of heart (v. 3) that God was going to rebuke and break (v. 4).

We might consider pride to be a sin of attitude rather than action. Consequently, we might see it as a light problem. However, pride heads the list of the things that God hates (Prov. 6:16); it is one of the three major categories of sins as defined by John (1 John 2:16); and it was apparently the sin that motivated Satan, himself (1 Tim. 3:6). Don’t miss it. God will deal with all sin and he will humble the proud!

Second, we should never get so angry that brotherhood is forgotten (10-14). That ancient, in-womb struggle of Jacob and Esau (Gen. 25:22-23) is now all grown up. Those two boys fathered nations (Jacob/Israel; Esau/Edom). In their story Esau was angry and bitter because of his own shortsightedness and the deceptions of his brother. His ancestors continued that animosity. Obadiah notes they were guilty of violence (10); standing idle while Israel was attacked (11); gloating over Jerusalem’s fall (12); raiding the spoils of the city (13); and preventing their

escape (14). What a tragedy it is when anger destroys brotherhood!

Third, we should never feel so lost that Zion is not our hope (15-22). The prophet ends the book by looking to Zion for hope. In Zion there is salvation and holiness (17), there is victory (18), and there is authority (19). Thus, deliverance will come in that mountain (21). This is reminiscent of Isaiah 2:2-3. The hope of any lost people –even those lost because of their own arrogance and anger– is the mountain of God. There we find forgiveness, hope, and security.

What a great book! What a great deliverance! What a great God!

Are You Thankful for the Church?

In the letters to the churches of Rome, Corinth, Colossi and Philippi, the Apostle Paul expressed his deep gratitude for those congregations. He was thankful for their faithfulness, fellowship and spiritual growth. Even though these groups of Christians struggled with temptation and sin, Paul appreciated his relationship with the church. Can we say the same about ourselves? Are we thankful for the church? If so, how do we express our appreciation? Here are a few ways and reasons we should be eternally grateful for this great institution:

- Jesus Christ Died for the Church - Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:24-25
- The Benefit of a Spiritual Family – Eph. 3:14-15
- Love for One Another is Found in the Church – 1 Peter 1:22
- Forgiveness is Found in Church Fellowship – 1 John 1:7
- Gratitude Shown by Consistent Fellowship - Acts 2:42
- Physical Needs are Met Thru the Church - Acts 4:34

· Peace and Harmony is Found in the Church - Rom. 15:5

· One Can be Worry-Free in the Church – Phil. 4:6-7

· Our Thankfulness is Shown by Giving – 2 Cor. 9:6-8

· Spiritual Support is Found in the Church – James 5:13-16

· Good Works Come from the Church – Eph. 2:10

· Christ is the Savior of the Church – Eph. 5:23

-Selected-

Ebenezer

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us."

1 Samuel 7:12

The people cried out to Samuel when the Philistines gathered against them for war. Samuel prayed for them and God responded to his prayer giving them a great victory. So that they would always remember this victory, Samuel set up a stone and called it "Ebenezer" (which means "stone of help").

I used to pray with a good friend and brother for different problems. We would keep these prayers on note cards. Over time we were able to go back and see prayers we had prayed and could see specific victories the Lord had won. Those cards became to us like Ebenezer stones, reminding us of God's mercy in our lives.

I now try to record my prayers in a prayer journal. Who knows what victories are being won by the Lord as these petitions reach his throne? Whatever the answers may be, I will have my Ebenezer stone to look back on and give glory to God!

-Selected-

Week of March 28, 2021

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion:	James Cammock
Offering:	Bryant Siegel

Prayer:

A.M. Opening:	Lupe Escojido
A.M. Closing:	Mike Atkinson
P. M. Opening:	Ronnie Scherffius
P. M. Closing:	Doug Jobes

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.:	Fred Scherffius
Sun. P.M.:	Rick Bass
Wed. P.M.:	Kevin Sheeran

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Steve Randle

Open/Close Building:

Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org

MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

The Scherffius family would like to cordially invite the Midtown family to a wedding reception for Anthony and his bride Hailey on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 12 noon here at the building. (Anthony and Hailey will be wedding on April 17th out of town). We will be celebrating this fine, young couple and their new life together. A meal will be provided, and a money/gift card tree will be presented to the couple. If anyone would like to contribute to this, please see Athena Scherffius or Emily Cammock.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

The family of Leiana Padilla, a friend of the Escojido family. Leiana passed away last week. Mike McVey, who is still having back pain. Mary Jo White, who will be receiving out patient therapy for her leg. Billy York's mother, who is at DeTar Hospital. Letty Randle who requests prayers for strength.

Happy Birthday: Sandra Daltrey (29); Faye Henderson (29); Ann Pantel (29)

Upcoming Events:

April 11: Youth devo at the church building after evening worship.

April 25-28: Spring Gospel meeting with speaker Justin Guess hosted by Midtown. There are flyers in the hallway.

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dee Gilpatrick has moved to the Courtyard
Healthcare Center
3401 E. Airline Rd. Victoria, TX 77901

****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE
PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Ken and Sandra Marie
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT~INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the “Keep in Prayer” List, please see Nina Siegel.

MidTown Church of Christ

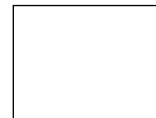
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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Mark FitzSimmons

Ronnie Scherffius

Ron White

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius

Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class:	7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of March 21, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	46
A.M. Worship.....	62
Sunday Evening Worship.....	53
Wednesday Bible Class.....	50
Offering :	\$2,387

Reading for this week:

“I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your Marvelous works.

Psalm 9:1

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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