

Judge of All Nations

July 1, 2018 ~ Obadiah 1.1-4, 10, 15

Dating Book of Obadiah not Straightforward

- ❖ Most prophets reference who was king at time of writing / Not done here
- ❖ Several Obadiah's mentioned in Bible / No details of himself shared
- ❖ What is helpful in dating book is **v11 (Read vss 10-11)** / Two times
 - ✧ ~845BC – Invasion by Philistines & Arabs during King Jehoram's reign
 - ✧ ~586BC – Nebuchadnezzar's invasion and sacking of Jerusalem
- ❖ What's also helpful are parallel passages:
 - ✧ **Isaiah 34** (~730BC) / **Ezekiel 25, 35** (~586BC) / **Jeremiah 49** (~586BC)
 - ✧ **Jeremiah 49.7-22** especially similar with 6 verses of same images / phrases
 - ◇ Jeremiah was in exile in Babylon / No clue where Obadiah was
 - ◇ God appears to have given similar vision to both men
 - ✧ Omitting who was king could have been because there wasn't one

Obadiah Outline

- ❖ **vss 1-9** ~ Prophecy concerning fall of Edom
- ❖ **vss 10-16** ~ Explanation of why Edom is being destroyed
- ❖ **vss 17-21** ~ Mt Zion will triumph and "**kingdom shall be the Lord's**"

Fall of Edom Propheesied (Read vss 3-4)

- ❖ **v3** ~ "**the pride of your heart has deceived you**"
- ❖ **v4** ~ Though your "**habitation is high .. I will bring you down**"
- ❖ Edomites had lived in these mountains for **1,000 years**
 - ✧ Esau living here when Jacob returned after 20 years (*millennium earlier*)
 - ✧ Already several generations of kings when Israelites came out of Egypt
 - ✧ Edomites has reason to feel secure in their mountain fortress
- ❖ **Read v5** with emphasis on interjection "**Oh, how you will be cut off!**"
- ❖ **v9** ~ "**everyone from the mountains of Esau .. cut off by slaughter**"
 - ✧ Edom fell about 30-35 years after prophecies

Xition: Why after 1,000 years is God going to destroy Edom?

What Does God Have Against Edom?

- ❖ **Read v10** ~ Summary statement of why this judgment will fall
 - ✧ "For violence against your brother Jacob .. you shall be cut off forever"
- ❖ **Eight reasons given (Read vs 12-14):**
 1. "gloated over .. your brother in the day of his captivity"
 2. "rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction"
 3. "spoken proudly in the day of distress"
 4. "entered the gates of My people in the day of their calamity"
 5. "gloated over their affliction in the day of their calamity"
 6. "laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity"
 7. "stood at the crossroads to cut off those who escaped"
 8. "delivered up those along them who remained in the day of distress"

Edom to be Destroyed for Poor Treatment of Judah

- ❖ **Read Psalm 137** with passion / Written between 585BC and 555BC
 - ✧ Jerusalem had fallen (captivity in Babylon) / But Edom still remained
 - ✧ At this time Jeremiah and Ezekiel wrote
- ❖ Malachi was the last of the Minor Prophets / ~400BC
 - ✧ **Read Malachi 1.1-5** ~ "The burden of .. the border of Israel"
- ❖ The Babylonians annihilated Edom around 550BC
 - ✧ Petra (aka Mt. Seir) today is only visited by archeologists and tourists

NOTE: Broaden scope of message way beyond Edom / Principles of Judgment

"God rules in the kingdom of men"

- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar admitted in **Daniel 4** that God "does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth"
- ❖ In **Daniel 5** Daniel reminds Belshazzar that "the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses"
- ❖ God rules / overrules in lives of individuals and nations
- ❖ For us here this is not a revolutionary statement / But for others it is
 - ✧ Many Christians act as if God's Rule "**ended**" with New Testament era
 - ✧ Phrases contrasting Old & New Testaments
 - ◇ "The New Testament is in the Old Concealed / Old Testament in New Revealed"
 - ◇ "New Testament in Old Not Expected / Old Testament in New Rejected"

Xition: Let's look to Genesis to see God's principles of judgment

Understanding God's Principles of Judgment from Genesis

❖ Judgments

- ✧ **Gen 3** ~ God judges Adam and Eve / death – work – pain – ejected
- ✧ **Gen 4** ~ God judges Cain for murdering Abel
- ✧ **Gen 6** ~ God pronounces death penalty upon all mankind
- ✧ **Gen 9** ~ God ends building of Tower of Babel
- ✧ **Gen 12** ~ God promises to bless / curse Abram's friends / enemies
- ✧ **Gen 15.16** ~ God announces future judgment of Amorites for iniquity

❖ Nature of Judgments

- ✧ **Gen 3** c/Adam & Eve ~ God judges mankind for breaking covenant with Him
- ✧ **Gen 4** c/Cain ~ God judges individual for sins against one another
- ✧ **Gen 6** c/mankind ~ God judges mankind for evil thoughts and actions
- ✧ **Gen 9** c/Babel ~ God judges mankind for disobedience towards Him
- ✧ **Gen 12** ~ God chooses a special people
- ✧ **Gen 15.16** c/Amorites ~ God indicates sin is measured and has limits

Summarizing God's Judgments ~ 5 Classifications

1. God judges those in covenant with Him for faithlessness (**Dt 28,29**)
 - ✧ God judged Adam and Eve for this
 - ✧ God also judged Judah and Israel for this in Amos (“**Lion Has Roared**”)
 - ◇ Judah rejected law of the Lord / Israel adopted idol worship
 2. God also judges those in covenant with Him for sins against others
 - ✧ Cain and Abel illustrate this / Ejected from Garden still walking with God
 - ◇ Cain judged for murdering Abel
 - ◇ Israel also in Amos was judged for their many sins against others
 - Greed, lewdness, injustice, violence, theft, etc...
 3. God judges those outside the covenant for sins against others
 - ✧ God will judge Amorites / Canaanites for evil perversions
 4. God also judges those outside covenant for rebellion against Him
 - ✧ Nebuchadnezzar (pride) / Belshazzar (sacrilege)
 5. God judges everyone based on their treatment of His covenant people
 - ✧ **Gen 12.3** ~ “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you”
- ❖ Sins can be considered as against God or against man (1st or 2nd table)
- ✧ God plays favorites / Judah – Israel – Edom – Moab & Ammon - others

Xition: For which of these was Edom judged?

Edom Judged for the 5th (Last) – Treatment of Judah

- ❖ God tolerated Edom for a 1,000 years (*even blessed them*)
 - ✧ He destroyed them only after they gloated about Judah's fall

“Why is This Important To Us Today?”

- ❖ What was true then – prior to Christ – is still true today
 - ✧ God rules in the affairs of men / He appoints rulers over men
- ❖ Some “*New Testament*” Christians reject this / But listen to Paul
 - ✧ **Read Acts 17.24-31** ~ “*God, who made .. from the dead*”
 - ◇ God creates nations / He establishes borders and appoints times
 - ◇ This means He judges them / He uses means to accomplish ends
- ❖ “**Nation building**” is a popular phrase in politics today
 - ✧ Council on Foreign Relations report concerning Iraq in 2005
 - ✧ People may mean well / But rejecting God is not a recipe for success

“Do God's Principles of Judgment Still Apply Today?” / YES

- ❖ “**To whom then does the 5th principle refer?**”
- ❖ **Reread Gen 12.1-3** c/bless and curse
- ❖ Who are God's covenant people?
 - ✧ Does this still refer to national Israel – to the Jewish people of Israel?
 - ◇ Many, many Christians believe so (*father-in-law*)
 - ◇ Funny: People who reject OT law as binding today believe this
- ❖ Paul in **Romans 9** clearly declares the true Israel to be followers of Christ
 - ✧ In **Romans 11** Paul says that national Israel will turn to faith

Both Testaments of the Bible have value and continuing relevance

God rules in the affairs of individuals and in the affairs of state

- “**Always Has – Always Will**”
- **One principle of His rule is “He will protect His covenant people”**
- “**Always Has – Always Will**”

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
To God our Savior, who alone is wise,
Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.
Amen *pause* Go in peace . . .