

11/15/15

Obadiah 1

In our introduction to the book of Obadiah we learned many important things to better understand the prophetic vision revealed by God to Obadiah about 845 B.C.

1. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, who was the twin brother of Jacob that God identified as two nation for the time they were in their mother's womb. Gen 25:20-23
2. In retaliation, Esau married heathen wives knowing it would not please his father Isaac and married the daughter of Ishmael. Gen. 28:6-9
3. Jacob did not return for 20 years at the word of God and did so in fear of Esau's threats to kill him, but God went before him. Gen. 33
4. The Edomites had become bitter enemies of Israel through out history.

1:16 The prophetic vision of the destruction of Edom.

1:1-9 *The doom of Edom.*

1:1-4 The certainty of the doom. vs. 1-4

- 1) God gave Obadiah a vision "chazown" means a divine communication about and against Edom.

- a) A vision is while a person is awake, a dream while a person is asleep, often prophetic in nature, foretelling the future.
 - b) That is why a prophet is also called a "seer", like Samuel and Gad. 1Sam. 9:9; 2Sam. 24:11; 2Chron. 35:15
 - c) He is one of the twelve minor prophets and one of the nine pre-exilic prophets, the other three are post-exilic, Haggai, Zachariah and Malachi.
- 2) God had begun to stir up the nation against Edom vs. 1
 - a) There is not reference to reigning kings, North or South. vs. 1a-b
 - b) We have heard a report, Obadiah and other that are not stated. vs. 1c
 - c) God sent out a messenger among the nations to come against Edom. vs. 1d-g
* Be it man or angle we are not told.
 - 2) God would abase them and cause them to be abhorred. vs. 2
 - a) "Behold, I will make you small." vs. 2a-b
 - b) "You shall be greatly despised". vs. 2c
 - 3) God revealed Edom's downfall. their prideful heart. vs. 3
 - a) The pride of her heart had deceived her. vs. 3a

- b) Her place of residence was her security. vs. 3b-c
- c) Her boast was arrogant. vs. 3d-e
 - 1)) Pride is the source of all evil. Prov. 6:16-19; 8:13;16:18; Is. 14:12-14; Ezk. 28:12-19; 1Jn. 2:16
 - 2)) Pride deceives and blinds us to our weakness, to trust in our own strength.
 - 3)) They were trusting in the fortress city of Petra discovered in 1812 by Johann Ludwig Burkhart, a Swiss explorer.
 - 4)) Petra was the ancient capital was Bazrah a few miles south of the Dead Sea, but in Obadiah's day the capital was the famous city of Petra or Sela, known as the "Red Rose city of Petra", in Jordan, a third city was Teman.
 - 5)) Petra was a city carved out of the sandstone rock, impregnable due to its 200 foot cliffs & narrow entrance no more than 10-12 feet at times, there for a few men could guard the city easily.
- 4) God proclaimed the downfall despite her overconfidence. vs. 4
 - a) The eagle is a symbol of deity, Edom thought herself invincible.
 - b) The stars high above everyone.

- c) God dwells far above the stars and the eagle, He would bring Edom down personally, "says the LORD".

1:5-9 The severity of the doom. vs. 5-9

- 1) The men of Edom had been uncompassionate and merciless and left nothing by he two rhetorical questions. vs. 5
 - a) The judgment of God is, "Oh, now you will be cut off!"
 - b) God would leave nothing.
- 2) God will search out her hidden sin and her stolen treasures and be taken from her. vs. 6
- 3) God declared that those they knew would turn on them. vs. 7
 - a) Those aligned with them would press them to their borders.
 - b) Those who were at peace with them would deceive them and prevail.
 - c) Those who ate with them would plot against them and the Edomites wouldn't even know it.
- 4) God would destroy the wise men from Edom and her intellectuals. vs. 8
- 5) God declared that the might men , the men of Teman would be destroyed. vs. 9
 - a) The word dismayed "chathath", means shattered, broken and terrified.

- b) One of Job's miserable comforters was Eliphaz the Temanite. Job 4:1
- c) Isaiah declared, "Is wisdom no more in Teman?" Jer 49:7

1:10-16 *The deeds of Edom.*

- 1) The Edomites were treacherous. vs. 10-14
 - a) They were violent against their brothers, Judah. vs. 10a
 - b) Their outcome would be their shame. vs. 10b
 - c) Their punishment would be to be cut off forever. vs. 10c
 - 1)) Vengeance is the child of bitterness, "Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be *dislocated*, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of **bitterness** springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he

found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears."

Heb. 12:12-17

- 2)) Vengeance keeps us from repentance because vengeance is never satisfied, nothing is enough!
- 3)) Vengeance that is righteous belongs only to God.
 - * "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "**Vengeance** is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Rom 12:19-20
- 2) The Edomites were heartless. vs. 11
 - a) They were observing Jerusalem's siege from the other side of the Jordan as the enemy carried off Jews. vs. 11a-b
 - b) They observed them entering the gates of Jerusalem and casting lots for Jerusalem at the time. vs. 11c
 - c) The Edomites also cast lots for Jerusalem with the enemies of Israel. vs. 11d
- 3) God rebuked the Edomites for being pleased and delighted over the horrible plight of Judah. vs. 12

- a) They gazed or gloated over the captivity of their brother's captivity. vs. 12a
- b) They rejoiced over Judah's destruction. vs. 12b
- c) They spoke proudly in the day of their brother's distress. vs. 12c
- 4) God rebuked the Edomites again for being without compassion. vs. 13
 - a) They should not have entered the gates during Judah's destruction. vs. 13a
 - b) They should not have delighted by gloated in their affliction. vs. 13b-c
 - c) They should not have laid hands on their possessions. vs. 13d
- 5) The Edomites were betrayers. vs. 14
 - a) They should not have stood at the crossroads to stop those escaping. vs. 14a
 - b) They should not have handed over the ones left over to the enemy. vs. 14b
- 6) Their deeds of Edom would be recompensed. vs. 15-16
 - a) Their recompense is compared to the Day of the Lord. vs. 15
* Ezekiel confirms it. Ezk. 25:12-13
 - 1)) The proclamation is two-fold, short term and long term for the tribulation and Great Tribulation.

- 2)) The "Day" is a day of God's wrath, indignation, darkness and woe's, throughout the Scriptures.
* Joel 1:15; 3:14; Zeph. 1:7; Amos 5:18-20
 - a) All nations are included.
 - b) The principle of sowing and reaping is proclaimed throughout Scripture. Gal. 6:7-8
- b) Edom had celebrated in drink on Mount Zion, but to their own destruction and so the nations at the end of the Great-Tribulation. vs. 16
 - 1)) In 300 B.C. the Edomites were taken by the Nabataean Arabs.
 - 2)) In 165 B.C. Judas Maccabaeus took over Hebron which was their capital.
 - 3)) In 126 B.C. John Hyrcanus subdued the Edomites and forced them to become circumcised as Jews.
 - 4)) The last Edomite known was Herod.

1:17-21 The prophetic vision of the salvation Israel.

- 1:17** Israel will be saved on Mount Zion.
- 1) The promise of salvation is at the return of Jesus to Mount Zion to set

up the Kingdom Age, as His foot touches the Mount of Olives and it splits in two. Zech. 14:4

a) Israel shall be saved. Rom. 9

b) Israel shall be holiness to the Lord.

c) Israel shall take her possessions.

1)) Two of three Jews will die under the hand of the Anti-Christ. Zech. 13:8-9

2)) God will protect Israel in Petra prior to His return. Is 16:1-4

3)) Israel will flee to Petra. Rev. 12:6, 13-14

2) This is a repeated theme throughout all the prophets. Is. 31”4; 59:20; Joel 3:16

a) The Jew only knew of two ages, the present age and the age to come, when God would establish His kingdom on the earth.

b) This was the very reason why Israel rejected a suffering Messiah.

c) The disciple themselves believed Jesus was going to establish the kingdom, that is why they were always discussing who was the greatest in the Kingdom and James and John even asked for the right hand and the left. Mk. 10:35-37

1:18 Israel will be exalted and destroy Edom.

1) Jacob and Joseph stand for the nation of Israel, a consuming fire.

2) Esau stands for stubble, to be devoured and be no more.

3) God has spoken it.

a) God is the defender of His own people.

b) God judged Egypt severely.

c) God may discipline His people by a more wicked nation, but then He will judge that nation for her over-extended ruthlessness, like Babylon. Hab. 2

1:19-20 Israel will possess the land.

1) The mountains, lowlands, fields and lakes will be occupied by God’s people. vs. 19

a) The land was given to Abraham from the beginning by God, forever. Gen. 13:14-15

b) The land was ultimately removed from the people due to their refusal to let the land rest. 2Chron. 36:20-21

2) The people will occupy the land of their enemies. vs. 20

a) Ezekiel gives greater details regarding verse 18-20. Ezk. 35:1-15

b) The people are back in the land today as they have declared their

independence for the third time in May 14th, 1948.

- c) The land and the people go together, no one can separate the two.

1:21 Israel will see the Kingdom established.

- 1) The Kingdom speaks of the thousand years reign of Christ on the earth, the Millennium.
- 2) The judgment is described in Isaiah. Is. 63:1-6
 - a) When Jesus returns all of Israel, who are true Israel will call on the name of the Lord, at the end of the Great-Tribulation.
 - b) The Jews will mourn and weep as they see the nail prints in Jesus' hands, recognizing they crucified their Messiah. Zech. 12:10
 - c) The Messiah will establish His Kingdom and give to Israel all the land promised to them through Abraham.