



***Obadiah: Addressing Pride,
Prejudice, and Prosperity***
Date: 09/25/2016

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

In 586 B.C., Babylonian armies, under the authority of King Nebuchadnezzar, destroyed the city of Jerusalem and burned the temple of the Lord (2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36:1-21). Many Jews who were not killed in the attack were carried off into exile as prisoners and servants of Babylon. Only the poorest of the land were left in Jerusalem to live in humiliation amongst the ruin and desolation.

The prophet Obadiah proclaims God's message of imminent punishment for the people of Edom and their implicit participation in the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem. The Edomites were descendants of Esau—relatives of the Israelites—who were a neighboring nation living south of Judah. Despite their ancient brotherhood, the Edomites hated and opposed all that Israel stood for in their witness to the one true God. Bible scholars speculate that the Edomites either participated in (by capturing fleeing Israelites and returning them to Babylon) or rejoiced over the events that transpired (Obadiah 1:12-14).

Obadiah prophesied the certain destruction of Edom. And within one hundred years, perhaps around the end of the 6th century B.C., Edom was no more (Malachi 1:1-4).

Outline

1. Obadiah 1:1-14 – The Coming Destruction of Edom
 - a. Obadiah 1:2-9 – The Course of Edom's Defeat
 - b. Obadiah 1:10-14 – The Cause for Edom's Defeat
2. Obadiah 1:15-21 – Coming Day of the Lord
 - a. Obadiah 1:15-16 – Universal Judgment
 - b. Obadiah 1:17-21 – God's Kingdom Established

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- As you study Obadiah, identify the most significant questions you need to answer to better understand its message.
- The Triune God is always the main character of Scripture. What does Obadiah teach us about God?



- Knowing what Obadiah teaches us about God, what does the book teach us about humanity?
- In Obadiah 1:3-4, God condemns the pride of Edom, which has deceived them into thinking they cannot be brought low by any force. He declares, “Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down.” Discuss how the Gospel overcomes the sin of pride. How has God convicted you of pride? Share how the Holy Spirit strengthened you to turn from your pride and turn to Jesus.
- Obadiah 1:10-14 presents evidence of Edom’s sin against Israel. “Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.” How did Edom sin against Israel? How are these sins being repeated by modern-day nations? In what ways do you find yourself committing the sins of Edom?
- Though Israel is trampled and humiliated, Obadiah prophesies that God will restore the righteous (1:17). God will direct His wrath toward His enemies and pour out His grace to the faithful ones (1:16, 18). And God will extend His blessing beyond what His people have experienced (1:19-21). Identify other passages of Scripture that complement or complete this message of restoration. Describe how a disciple of Christ can find confidence in these words. Share how you have found assurance through this promise.
- How is the power of the Gospel proclaimed in the book of Obadiah?
- How should the Body of Christ “go there” with the message of Obadiah? How do you personally need to “go there” with this message?

Do Life Together

These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!

- How is God calling you to exchange doom for everlasting hope?
- How has Jesus already provided hope in this area?
- Who do you need to share this hope with this week?

