

Sermon, September 25, 2011
“The Struggle”, Obadiah 1:1-21
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The Books of Prophecy

- Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, **Obadiah**, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Overview of Obadiah:

- The prophet Obadiah is the likely author.
- Obadiah means “servant of the LORD”.
- The book is directed to the southern kingdom of Judah.
- Shortest book in the Old Testament.
- The time of the writings are sometime within 30 years of 586 BC
- Time of the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar
- Representative nations of Jacob and Esau, Isaac’s sons born of Rebekah
- Edomites are the descendants of Esau
- As the Israelites are the descendants of Jacob
- **Overall Outline of Obadiah:**
 - I. God’s Judgment of Edom (1:1-14)
 - II. God’s Judgment against the Nations (1:15-16)
 - III. God’s Restoration of Israel (1:17-21)

Major Themes of Obadiah:

- Judgment on Edom for assisting in Judah’s demise
- The promise from God to restore His people
- The struggle of Esau and Jacob in the womb is symbolically shown as the struggle between our spiritual and worldly natures.

The message of Obadiah is Godly triumph over the world. In the struggle of life, only the Lord is your salvation.

1. **The struggle between Jacob and Esau began 1,500 years before (2,000 BC). Genesis 25:20-26.**
 - It was Jacob who received the blessing from Isaac, while Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup.
 - Jacob the deceiver became Israel (one who strives with God) and looked toward God, Esau became a man of the world and settled for open spaces
 - Esau settled in the region of Edom south of the Dead Sea (Petra capital city) and his descendants remained perpetual enemies of the descendants of Jacob
 - The two nations are the focus of the prophecy of Obadiah, one worldly the other spiritual.

2. **The Lord promises the destruction of the proud and rebellious Edomites.**
 - **Obadiah 1:3-4**
 - The proud and bold heart that relies on its own cunning, worldly understanding and wisdom will fall.
 - **Obadiah 1:8-9**
 - The Edomites opposed Israel during the time of Moses, Saul, David, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, ...
 - The Edomites eventually moved to southern Palestine and became known as the Idumeans.
 - From the Idumeans came the ruling house of the Herod’s
 - Thus, the contempt of the house of Esau even raised its ugly head when Herod sent Jesus to Pilate to be killed.

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3. The evil of Edom was their utter contempt for Israel.

- **Obadiah 1:11-16**
- What did the Edomites do?
gloated (while Jerusalem was being destroyed by the Babylonians)
have rejoiced over the ruined people of Judah
boasted on the day of distress.
entered the gate (triumphant conqueror of Judah)
joined in the gloating
looted his goods
stood at the crossings to cut off his fugitives (ambush the survivors and hand them over)
handed over his survivors.
- Does the world gloat, rejoice in the downfall, boast at the distress, enter the gate, loot, ambush the people of God (Christians) today?
- Did you struggle have an internal struggle with your worldly self and the understanding and notions you had before you came to Christ?
- Do you struggle now with walking like Jesus, torn by what your flesh considers right and your Spirit knows as right?
- **Obadiah 1:15-16**
- Eventually the battle will end and the worldly desires will pass.

4. The promise of God is the salvation of His people into His Kingdom.

- **Obadiah 1:17-18**
- The family feud that existed between Jacob and Esau, Israel and Edom, the church and the world, the spiritual and the earthly will be overcome by the power of the Lord.
- **Obadiah 1:19-20**
- In every direction God will conquer and reign
- The Jews returned from exile in Babylon to restore Jerusalem, the Edomites were overtaken by the Nabateans.
- The kingdom of God was ushered in by Jesus Christ and the Idumeans were destroyed
- When you are spiritually born again, your earthly self begins to fade.
- **Obadiah 1:21** ²¹ *Those who have been saved shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.*
- The Lord promises the repentant heart a change from earthly to spiritual; worldly to Godly; foolish wisdom to true wisdom. We have indeed entered the Holy regions of God to rule over our fleshly desires as we follow our King, our savior, our redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ***The message of Obadiah is Godly triumph over the world. In the struggle of life, only the Lord is your salvation.***