

Readings

Scripture

¹The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom: We have heard a report from the Lord, and a messenger has been sent among the nations: "Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!" ²Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised. ³The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, "Who will bring me down to the ground?" ⁴Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the Lord.

⁵If thieves came to you, if plunderers came by night—how you have been destroyed!—would they not steal only enough for themselves? If grape gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings? ⁶How Esau has been pillaged, his treasures sought out! ⁷All your allies have driven you to your border; those at peace with you have deceived you; they have prevailed against you; those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you—you have no understanding.

⁸Will I not on that day, declares the Lord, destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esau? ⁹And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman, so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.

¹⁰Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. ¹¹On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them. ¹²But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress. ¹³Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity. ¹⁴Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress.

¹⁵For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. ¹⁶For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been. ¹⁷But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape, and it shall be holy, and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions. ¹⁸The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau, for the Lord has spoken.

¹⁹Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines; they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. ²⁰The exiles of this host of the people of Israel shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the Negeb. ²¹Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

- Obadiah 1:1-21 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

The Lord's Protective Heart...
Obadiah 1:1-21

Return With All Your Heart
Matt Esswein

The Lord Protects His People through His Judgment

Judgment on Edom, a Brother (Obadiah 1:1-14)

- Who is Edom? (Obadiah 1:1; Numbers 20:14-21; Deut. 23:7; 2 Chron. 20:22-23)
 - Judgment through HUMBLING (Obadiah 1:1-9)
 - Judgment through REVEALING (Obadiah 1:10-14)
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Comfort for Israel, God's People (Obadiah 1:15-21)

- Comfort in the Lord's DELIVERANCE on the Day of the Lord
 - Comfort in the Lord's RULE in his Kingdom
 - Comfort in the Lord's SALVATION & RESTORATION
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Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Where was your safe place of retreat as a child? Why? Where is your safe place now?
- Is there one day that stands out as a day of disaster for your family? What happened? What good came out of it?
- Edom was located in a mountainous region, making it difficult for foreign armies to invade thus giving Edom a sense of invincibility, security, and safety. How is this sense of security exaggerated in the first few verses of Obadiah (3-4)?
- How might we fall into the same temptations of invincibility or security?
- Despite Edom's perception of safety, God is bringing destruction upon the nation. What is the reason for this judgment against Edom? What has Edom done to Israel? (1:10-14)
- Why does God include this oracle of judgment against Edom (and other foreign nations) in his message to his people? What purpose might this oracle serve for Israel? (1:15-21)
- How might these words have given hope to Israel? How can these words give us hope today?
- Read Revelation chapter 21. How does the hope of Obadiah 19-21 translate to believers after the first coming of Christ?
- How does Obadiah 1:21 point to Jesus?
- How has this whole series on Joel, Amos, and Obadiah impacted you? How has God spoken to you, challenged you, been at work in you through these last 10+ weeks?