

July 14, 2013 Sermon Application Handout
“God’s Vindication”
Obadiah

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, take a moment to pray and ask God to help you to set your mind on the day of the Lord when He will establish His Kingdom and make things right. Also pray that while you wait, you will continue to be faithful to share the Gospel with the lost and respond to your brothers and sisters in Christ with a brotherly affection (Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 3:1-4; Romans 12:8, 1 Peter 5:8).
2. Now read Obadiah in one sitting. Who is the original audience? What is the tone of the book? What is God's message to the recipients? What attribute of God do you see in this text? During what period of history was Obadiah written (refer to timeline on Calvary's website, Intro to Minor Prophets, July 7, 2013)?
3. Read Genesis 25:19-34 and 36:31. Where does Edom's (Esau's) story begin? What is his ancestry? Why was he named Edom? Where is the city of Edom located (Numbers 20:17)? What famous King is linked to this nation (Matt 2:16-18)?

II. Edom’s Judgment D_____ (vv. 1-9)

4. Read Obadiah 1-9. What report had come to Obadiah's attention regarding Edom's destruction (cf. Ezekiel 35:15)?
5. What heart attitude did Edom express? Ironically where did the Edomites settle that was reflective of this particular heart sin?

6. What are some specific manifestations of this heart sin mentioned in verses 3 and 10-14)?

7. Re-read Obadiah 5-9. What does this illustration represent? What is going to happen to Edom? Will it come as a surprise? Did it come to pass?

8. Once God raises his hand against a nation, is there anything one can do to thwart His plan? Why or why not? (Hint: How does Obadiah describe the Lord in the first sentence)?

9. List out ways our nation puts their confidence in the flesh very much like Edom did. What is the danger of this?

10. Read Philippians 3:1-14. What can be done to bring the high places down in one's heart? Can a nation be saved from God's judgment?

11. What about you? Where do you place your confidence? Do you see "high places" in the crevices of your heart? If you are a believer, what promises and exhortations are for you (1 John 1:9; Phil 2:1-4; 1 Peter 5:6)?

III. Edom's Crimes D_____ (vv. 10-14)

12. Read Obadiah 10-14. According to verse 10, why was God so angry with Edom?

13. Read 2 Chronicles 21:4-20. When did this violence against Israel most likely occur? Who was king? What was Edom's attitude toward Judah (Israel) at that time? What happened to Judah (Israel) during this time? What happened to the king?

14. According to Obadiah 11, how did Edom respond when strangers carried off the wealth of the Israelites?

15. According to verses 12-14, how did Edom's sin escalate? How did they verbally respond in the midst of Israel's calamity? What sinful action did they willingly participate in?

16. How did God expect Edom to respond to Israel? What seems to be extremely important to the Lord when it comes to His family (cf. Deut 23:7; Obadiah 12)?

17. Don't miss the message! God takes brotherly love, unity, and loyalty very seriously! Read Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 4:8; and Philippians 2:1-2. Do you recognize these qualities in your own life? List out some application from these verses and then note down how you will specifically apply it this week.

IV. Edom's Destruction D_____ (vv. 15-21)

18. Read Obadiah 15-21. What eminent day is coming?

19. Was this day just reserved for Edom who persecuted the nation of Israel?

20. According to Obadiah 15-18 and Zechariah 2:8, how will God vindicate His people? How will God restore Israel? How does He encourage Israel?

21. In a day when God's Saints continue to be mocked, maligned, imprisoned, or even killed for being a Christ follower, how might Obadiah 17-21; Dt. 32:33; Lk 18:7; and Rom 8:18-30 be a comfort?

22. According to Isaiah 63, how will God vindicate Himself? How will the Lord find you on this day? Will you suffer the plight of Edom or will you glory in that day?

23. Now spend some time in prayer and reflect on the following questions:
 - a. How will you stand before the Lord on that day? Can you say without reservation that Jesus is your King?
 - b. How are you doing in the area of brotherly love?
 - c. Are you proclaiming to all people that God's Judgment is coming? If not, why not? What's hindering you?

Resources:

Specific Resource for Obadiah:

Joel and Obadiah by Irvin Busenitz

General Resources for the Minor Prophets:

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice

The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg

The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood

Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer

Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr