



Sunday, June 30, 2019
Dr. Landon Dowden

Displaying God's Authority
Obadiah 1-21

Background:

- 587 B.C. – fall of Jerusalem (and Judah) to Babylonians – judgment for their disobedience (Joel)
- Obadiah = servant of Yahweh – 12 people in Old Testament have the name, but cannot definitively say if he is any of them – the book is not about Obadiah it is about God's authority – “a message from the Lord”
- Judah – descendant of Jacob
- Edom – descendant of Esau – Genesis 36
- Only book written primarily to non-believers (Edom)
- V. 1 – Disaster is coming, and it's coming from God – Genuine warning
 - Major message from a minor prophet
 - Minor = length – not quality of content

Obadiah in a sentence: Obadiah is God's declaration to deliver His people and to destroy His enemies.

- I. God's Authority will be displayed in His Enemies. (1-16)
 - a. God's message for Edom (vv. 1-2)
 - b. Who are God's Enemies?
 - i. Those who are full of pride (1-4)
 1. God knew what was in their heart and in ours. (v. 3)
 2. Their view of their significance was too high. (2-3a)
 3. Their view of their security was too high. (3b-4)
 - a. They trusted in their Army (3-4, 9), Allies (7), and Ability (8-9 wisdom and strength) but none of these could defend them from God's judgment.
 - b. No matter how secure and accomplished we feel – our only safety and security is God.
 - c. From their high position they could survey everything around them – EXCEPT THEMSELVES.
 - d. John Stott “At every stage of our Christian development, and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is our greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend.”



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- ii. Those who oppose His people (10-14)
 - 1. Actions against God's people are actions against God – Acts 9:4 "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting ME?"
 - 2. Their sin escalated (and so does ours) – Big sins are always built upon little sins.
 - a. Stood aloof (v. 11)
 - b. Looked down on Judah (condemnation) (v. 12)
 - c. Rejoiced over their suffering (v. 12)
 - d. Boasted in their day of trouble (v. 12)
 - e. Marched through the gates (v. 13)
 - f. Looked down on them (v. 13)
 - g. Seized their wealth (v. 13)
 - h. Waited at the crossroads (v. 14)
 - i. Killed (cut down) fugitives (v. 14)
 - j. Handed them over (v. 14)
 - c. What will happen to God's Enemies?
 - i. They will be completely devastated. (5-6)
 - ii. They will have no one to whom they can turn. (7)
 - iii. They will be powerless to defend themselves. (8-9)
 - iv. They will be judged according to their deeds. (15)
 - v. They will endure an eternal punishment. (16)
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- II. God's Authority will be displayed in His People. (17-21a)
 - a. Who are God's People?
 - i. The Delivered Ones (17)
 - ii. God disciplines those He loves but He does not desert them.
 - b. What will happen to God's People?
 - i. They will be restored. (18)
 - ii. Their territory will be expanded. (19-21a)



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- III. God's Authority will be displayed in His Eternal Kingdom. (21b)
 - a. This book is not primarily about Edom or Israel but about God. (v. 1, 23)
 - b. C. E. Armerding: The localized disasters befalling Edom and Jerusalem are not merely isolated incidents in a remote and insignificant theater of war, for they mark the footsteps of the Lord himself as he approaches to set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed.
 - c. Christians – think on this – the Kingdom will be our Lord's.
 - i. Consider His complete rule over all of life – the certainty of His rule.
 - ii. He will triumph, and His triumph will be complete.