

Sermon for Oct 25, 2020, “What should we pay attention to in our life?” Obadiah 1:1–4

Introduction: Background of Obadiah

After a beautiful short autumn, suddenly winter came. It snowed several times. On cold and snowy days, I am happy to watch funny dramas or games with my family, along with enjoy delicious food. Don't be disappointed that the beautiful autumn has passed. I hope you have the happiest days. Especially on a cold winter day, please experience the happiness of God's Word as you read the Bible. Tasty food, popular dramas, sport broadcasts and the presidential election will all pass. But God's Word is eternal.

The book of Obadiah, which we are going to look at today, is the shortest book in the Old Testament, written in one chapter. However, it should not be taken lightly.

The book of Obadiah is set in the early days of South Judah's captivity. After the fall of northern Israel, the people of South Judah were taken captive by Babylon from about 590 BC. God's words of judgment about the evil that the Edomites did in this process is the book of Obadiah.

Edom is Jordan, home to the famous Petra ruins. Edom is Israel's brotherhood. This is because the tribe that originated from Jacob's twin brother Esau is Edom. By the way, Edom was the country that was pleased to see Israel's destruction and tormented them from beginning to end. The book of Obadiah is God's word for Edom. However, if you look closely at the book of Obadiah, there is a word that is given to us.

Body: The word of Obadiah given to us

1. The book of Obadiah speaks of pride.

First, the book of Obadiah talks about the sin of pride which we tend to fall into. Let's look at the words of today's passage **1:3, "The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, whose dwelling is high, who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'"**

In this verse we can see the proud hearts of the Edomites. **"Who will bring me down to the ground?"** says the people of Edom. They are proud that no one, even God, can bring them down to the ground. There are several reasons why Edom is so proud. Because there are things they trust and depend on. First, Edom is located in a natural fortress that is safe from enemy invasion. Second, Edom has strong allies around it. Third, Edom believes that it had a diplomatic ability to make good use of its neighboring countries. So they have pride in their hearts. But because of their pride, they behave recklessly. Then they fall. In the end, those who put Edom in trouble are those whom Edom believed and relied on.

Therefore, we must not forget who is in charge of life. Because the wisdom we believe we possess is not ours, but God's. So we can be fools in a moment. It is King Nebuchadnezzar who best demonstrates this. When God took his wisdom and intelligence, he spent seven years living in the fields with wild animals. Then God gave him wisdom and intelligence again, and he was restored again (Book of Daniel chapter 4).

So we must be careful too. We must see if there is pride in our center. And we must always check where the pride comes from. In **1 Corinthians 9:27, the apostle Paul says, “But I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”** Do you think that the Apostle Paul, due to his piety and passion for the Gospel, said this because he lacked more than us? Absolutely not! This is because the Apostle Paul always checked himself to keep his heart from being proud, even before God. This attitude is also necessary in our daily life.

2. Obadiah speaks of God's Judgment.

The second reason to read Obadiah is because it speaks of God's judgment. God judges this pride of Edom. However, God's judgment has several characteristics. **First, God's judgment is the**

judgment of the mighty. Let's look at verse 4 of today's text, "Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, thence I will bring you down, says the LORD."

Eagles symbolize strength and freedom. Who can compete with the eagle? But for God, this is not a problem at all. Because His power is unlimited. In other words, God's judgment is that of the Almighty. That is why it is the most terrifying judgment.

Second, a characteristic of God's judgment is that He pays back for what we do. In Obadiah verses 10-14, we see the sin of Edom. There are eight bad things the Edomites shouldn't have done.

In Obadiah verse 15, it says **"For 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."**

To return what we have done, we must know everything we have done. Sometimes people forget what they've done wrong or don't know what it was. But, God knows all of this. So God's judgment is both just and fearful to us.

The book of Obadiah tells us that **on "the day of the judgment of the Lord,"** God will pay back everything we did, no matter how powerful and strong we are.

Therefore, as a Christian, I hope you will remember the words of Jesus, **"Do to others as you would have them do to you. Love your neighbor as yourself."**

3. There is a promise for God's people.

The reason to read the book of Obadiah is because it tells us that there is an ultimate victory. In the book of Obadiah, the word about Edom ends with verse 16. But verses 17 through 21 speak to the children of God.

Let's look at **Obadiah verse 17, "But in Mount Zion there shall be those that escape, and it shall be holy; and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions."**

This means that God's people will never again be ridiculed or invaded by Gentiles. In other words, the worship of the spiritual church of God is restored, the presence of the Lord is experienced, and it becomes a distinct place where the word of the Lord is proclaimed.

Going on, **verse 18 says, "The 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 to the house of Esau; for the LORD has spoken."** The word here to be fire and flame means to melt our hard hearts. And it means that it burns away all our sins and dirt and makes it worthwhile like silver and gold.

And he continues to talk about amazing things that will happen. Those who had been held captive return. It is said that when they return, they will reclaim the old land they had lost. This is to say that a full recovery will be achieved.

And finally, **verse 21 says, "Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD's."**

Even if those who have been saved are scattered, they are saved and return to Zion. But if you look here, it tells you not to climb the mountain of Edom. This means that if Edom appears to be victorious, wise, and has strong allies, do not envy Edom. Instead, it means to climb the holy mountain where God comes, the mountain of Zion. Because Edom' victory is temporary, but Zion's victory is eternal.

Conclusion: The Church of God is eternal.

Now, let's summarize today's sermon. Old Testament **Joel 3:20-21 says. "But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations. I will avenge their blood, and I will not clear the guilty, for the LORD dwells in Zion."**

Therefore, believers should not be shaken by temporary difficulties, but humbly depend on God. We must be able to show much love and silently follow the Lord's path. Then I believe that we will all be used by the Lord to do precious things and glorify the Lord.