

Tapes For Growing Christians

Study Guide for
OBADIAH

Growing Christians Ministries
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Lesson 1

The Nation of Edom is denounced for her Pride Obadiah 1-9

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal / teaching point

1. God hates the sin of Pride.

2. God judges the sin of Pride.

practical application

1. Remember what happened to Humpty Dumpty

questions

1. The one chapter book of Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. What two books in the New Testament are shorter than Obadiah?

2. What does the name 'Obadiah' mean?

3. Why did Obadiah declare judgment on Edom?

4. Why is Edom called a "brother nation" of Israel?

5. Has the prophecy of judgment concerning Edom come true?

answers

1. 2nd and 3rd John are shorter than Obadiah.
2. Obadiah means "Servant of the Lord".
3. Edom had not come to Israel's aid in her time of trouble, but had actually attacked the nation.
4. The Edomites were descendants of Esau. Esau's twin brother was Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Read about the start of the conflict between Jacob and Esau in Genesis 27.)
5. Yes, between the 6th and 4th centuries BC the Nabataeans, a group of Arabian tribesmen, deceives the Edomites into become allies with them, then forced them out of their mountainous stronghold. The remaining Edomites became the Idumeans of Southern Israel who were forced to convert to Judaism by the Maccabees in the intertestamental times. Later, the Romans conquered the remaining Idumeans, and the Edomites effectively faded from history.

discuss/consider

1. When something good happens we readily take the credit, but when something bad happens to us we try to shift the blame onto someone else. Why are we so hesitant to admit that our shortcomings are our own fault?
2. The sin of Pride is dangerous because it glorifies self instead of God. Read I Corinthians 1:18-31 where men had elevated the wisdom of the world over the wisdom of God. How is relying on the world's wisdom a form a pride? As growing Christians, what should be our source of pride?

challenge

1. The Edomites were denounced for their pride. Are you hiding the sin of pride in your heart?
2. Being humble doesn't mean thinking less of oneself, it means thinking of oneself less! Think of ways you can serve others and humble yourself in the sight of the Lord this week.

memorize

"The pride of your heart has deceived you..." Obadiah 3

"...though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down,' declares the Lord." Obadiah 4

Lesson 2

Edom's wrong treatment of Israel, and Israel's ultimate triumph in the end Obadiah 10-21

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal / teaching point

1. In the Day of distress, God holds people accountable
2. On the Day of the Lord, God will settle all accounts

practical application

1. Don't gloat over your brother's day of misfortune

questions

1. When was the prophecy of Obadiah written?
2. Who was the original audience of Obadiah's prophecy? One might assume it was Edom, because Edom is denounced. But who else would benefit from hearing a denouncement on Edom?
3. What New Testament passage echoes the message that Israel didn't need to seek their own revenge on Edom?
4. What is the Day of the Lord? Has it occurred yet?
5. Who are the deliverers of Obadiah 21?

answers

1. Verse 11 mentions an invasion of Jerusalem. Edom was an ally to the enemy during this invasion. This was probably when the Philistines invaded Jerusalem during the reign of King Jehoram of Judah, around 845 B.C. (see 2 Chronicles 21) This would put the date of Obadiah around 840 B.C.
2. The original audience of the book was Israel. It was given as a message of comfort and encouragement that God would repay the Edomites for their evil.
3. Romans 12:19 “‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.”
4. The Day of the Lord can be defined as a time when the Lord intervenes in the affairs of a nation, bringing judgment or blessing. Ultimately this is a still future time period that will include the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom of our Lord. Some historical events (such as the destruction of Edom) foreshadow the judgments in the end times.
5. Maybe us. We might be judges when we reign with Christ in His coming kingdom (see I Corinthians 6:2).

discuss/consider

1. Edom had participated in Israel's hurt, and now they were suffering themselves. Read Galatians 6:7. Discuss how the “You reap what you sow” principle is true in many areas of life. Business, inter-personal relationships, etc.
2. It is all too easy to “gloat over your brother's day of misfortune” (v. 12). What drives this tendency? What can you do so that you will respond more appropriately to your brother's day of distress?

challenge

1. As growing Christians we are called to help those in distress. Distress comes in many forms. Do you know anyone in distress that you could help right now?
2. The Day of the Lord is imminent- He could come back any time! This seems to be a forgotten truth today. How can you develop an attitude that sincerely looks forward to the Lord's return? What affect should His imminent return have on your life? (see I John 3:3)

memorize

“Do not gloat over your brother's day of misfortune” Obadiah 12

“...As you have done, it shall be done to you...” Obadiah 15

“...the kingdom shall be the Lord's.” Obadiah 21