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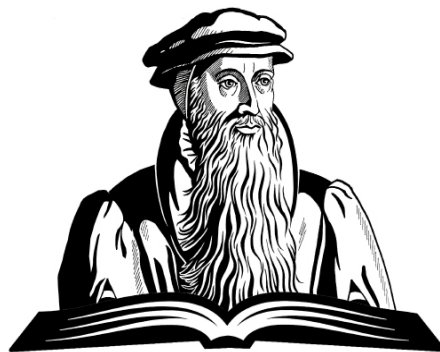
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 103

Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
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| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

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74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
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79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
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93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
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99. Esther—The Jews Saved
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Lesson 103

Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall

Obadiah, chapter 1

Memory Verse

*“Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars,
thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.”*

—Obadiah, verse 4

Introduction

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. Obadiah means “servant of the LORD.” We do not know anything about Obadiah’s life. The purpose of the book of Obadiah is to announce the destruction of the people of Edom because of their crimes against their brethren, the children of Israel. What crimes were they?

The Message of Obadiah

When Isaac’s wife Rebecca was expecting twins, she noticed that the children were struggling within her. The Lord revealed to Rebecca: “Two nations are in thy womb...and the elder shall serve the younger” (Genesis 25:22). Already before they were born, there was a rivalry between the brothers Jacob and Esau. Later, Esau sold the birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob tricked his father into giving him the great blessing which Isaac had promised to give to Esau. Esau threatened to kill Jacob, and Jacob had to flee. When the children of Israel were travelling to the promised land, the children of Esau, the Edomites, refused them passage through their territory. God did not allow the Israelites to attack the Edomites. “Meddle not with them,” it says in Deuteronomy 2:5.

The Edomites were a constant thorn in the side of the people of Israel. David finally conquered the Edomites, and, as the Lord had appointed, the children of Esau were made to serve the children of Israel by paying an annual tribute. The Edomites did not submit to God’s decree however. They continually tried to throw off the yoke of service. The worst act of treachery came when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem and destroyed the city and temple.

The news that the soldiers of Nebuchadnezzar had captured Jerusalem caused great rejoicing among the people of Edom. Like vultures, they flocked to Jerusalem. Gleeefully they pursued fleeing Israelites, captured them, and handed them over to the Babylonians. They joined the Babylonians in plundering and burning the city. The decree of God, that the elder should serve the younger, was overturned! As the people of Israel were chained together and marched off to Babylon, Edom celebrated!

“How could this be happening?” stunned Israelites must have cried out. Was God no longer in control? The book of Obadiah is God’s reply to that fearful question. God pronounces his judgments upon the proud Edomites. He tells them that he has seen their treacherous acts and knows their pride. The Edomites thought that they were unconquerable. Their city Sela was built on a high,

steep plateau with only one narrow, well guarded path leading to the city. The city of Petra was only accessible by way of a long narrow canyon. “Who shall bring me down to the ground?” they boasted (verse 3). God declared to the Edomites that their pride would lead to a terrible fall. “Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD” (verse 4). God’s message to the Edomites was a dreadful one. Their strong fortresses would not save them. As they had done to the people of Israel, so it would be done to them (verse 15). “For thy violence against thy brother Jacob, shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off forever” (verse 10). Today, the deserted cities of the Edomites witness that the prophecy of Obadiah has been fulfilled. Justice has been done. The people of Judah were made to taste of the cup of God’s judgment, but from them it would pass to the people of Edom, and they would be made to drink it “continually,” (verse 16) while “upon mount Zion shall be deliverance” (verse 17).

The judgment of God upon the Edomites clearly foreshadows the final judgment of God on the last day. On that day, every person who has ever lived will be judged “according to their works” (Revelation 20:13). How can anyone then escape having to drink from the cup of God’s wrath against sin? This is possible because the Son of God came to earth to drink that cup of wrath and empty it completely, so that guilty sinners who flee for refuge to him, may find mercy in that day.

Review Questions

1. What does the Lord say had deceived Edom? (verse 3)
 - a. Their false gods
 - b. The pride of their heart
 - c. The hatred of the people of God

2. Where does Edom live? (verse 3)
 - a. In the clefts of the rocks
 - b. In the Valley of the Kings
 - c. In the desert of Zin

3. What would grape gatherers who came to Edom normally do? (verse 5)
 - a. Trample out the grapes
 - b. Leave a few grapes
 - c. Prune the vines
 - d. Drink some of the new wine

4. What will not be left from the house of Esau? (verse 18)
 - a. No survivors
 - b. No vineyards
 - c. No walled cities

5. In verse 12, God says that the people of Edom should not “have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction.” Different texts in the Bible warn against rejoicing about the troubles of other people. Fill in the missing words of Proverbs 17:5 and Matthew 5:44.

“He that is _____ at _____ shall not be _____.”

“But I say unto you, _____ your _____, _____ them that _____ you, do _____ to them that _____ you, and _____ for them which _____ use you, and _____ you.”

Discussion Questions

1. In Obadiah, verses 11 to 14, what are four sins charged upon the Edomites?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. In many places in the Old Testament, the Edomites are accused of cruelty to their brethren. Look up these texts and write down some keywords.

Psalm 137:7 _____

Amos 1:11 _____

Joel 3:19 _____

Ezekiel 25:12 _____

3. Read Lamentations 4:21, 22. Describe some of the similarities you notice between the words of Lamentations and the book of Obadiah.

4. How did the Lord Jesus fulfill Obadiah verse 17 during his time on earth?

5. There are many details in the Bible about the characters of Esau and Jacob, and God's dealings with them. Read Romans 9:11 to 14 and Hebrews 12:15 to 17. Choose one of these texts and try to find a good commentary on them. How is the text explained?
