

March 12th 2006: O.T. Review: Obadiah: Judgment on Edom

Obadiah...smallest.....& it has one major Theme: Judgment against Nation of Edom
(*Not against Judah.....Israel.....Babylon.....Assyria*)

and the reason for this judgment.....is the way that Edom treated...her brother nations
when their need ...**help**.....sympathy.....support.....was greatest

To understand the book of Obadiah.....Need first to understand the story of Jacob &
Twin boys born to Abraham's son Isaac.....who started fighting while still in the womb

Both were grandsons.....But whereas to Jacob it meant everything.....To Esau...nothing

There was a physical difference.....Esau was big, strong, and very hairy...
Jacob had smooth skin and was not as physically strong:
Genesis 25:27 says

(*Survivor: Esau would be the big strong tough.....Jacob.....the smaller, sly, wouldn't
trust.....*)

One of
The best known story of the two.....relates.....to the value they each placed....
...on their spiritual and physical heritage

Esau the oldest.....was due to receive...the blessing under Godfrom father..which his
This was much more....inheritance
It was the spiritual headship.....first given to Abraham.....passed on to Isaac
...of a family...that would become a Nation. **A chosen Nation→God's people**

To Jacob.....this was a birthright worthselling one's soul for
To Esau.....who had it.....it wasn't worth much at all

This became obvious on one partic occasion.....Gen 25: 29—34.....

We may think.....it was just words.....Esau didn't mean that much by....
But it wasn't just words.....**They swore an oath.....**just as binding as a contract

Some years later when Isaac was getting old.....Jacob....by trickery.....received...
And it was this that caused a major rift between.....
→ in fact Jacob had a legal and moral right.....to a birthright that Esau had rejected

Esau then went on to form the Nation of Edom.....

A tough breed of people...lived in the rocky and inhospitable regions...outside of Canaan
A Nation that despised Israel

More than 4 centuries later.....children of Israel.....had left Egypt.....en route to...
God had given them strict instructions.....regarding the Edomites
Then in Numbers 20:14—21 we read.....

Now that was just the beginning.....As Obadiah shows.....their behaviour to Israel
..got much worst.....**v10 says.....**

That violence was against both Israel and Judah when they were under attack.....
The Edomites gathered to jeer and scorn
They looted.....They also caught those trying to escape.....and handed them over

So that's one of the reason why God allowed Edom destroyed....completely and
But it wasn't the only reason

In the New Testament.....Esau is seen as the man of flesh.....

He is the Type.....of all who trust in themselves.....and scorn the help of God

Whereas Jacob.....the man of Spirit(spiritual).....**Who** comes to see his own failings
..weaknesses...sins.....And his need to enter into a relationship with God...

In the book of Obadiah.....The Nation of Edom.....Esau's people.....
is pictured as a proud nation....that felt they needed neither the Lord...
.....nor anyone else to help them

They had their fortress.....their capital Petra.....
Built into the rocks...high & lifted
They knew they were a small.....But they saw themselves as physically strong..tough
They were well known for their warriors.....wise men

They had cultivated friendships.....with Arab nations.....& believed that they were
secure for ever.

Look at v3.....

It was such pride that caused them to act as they did to God's people

Of all the Nations.....Edom...., thru its connection with Abraham and Isaac....
would have known about God.....His power.....His justice.....His judgment

But Edom did not need God.....Edom had its indestructible mountain fortress
Edom had its friends.....Edom would soar like an eagle

So Edom had no fear of the Lord.....
and confidently scorned and despised God's people

But God says in v4.....

Of the security they had in their friendsthe Lord says in v7.....

Of the trust they had in their wise man.....in their warriors....God says in v8-9....

Circumstances of life turned against this Nation...and with no Lord to turn to
They completely perished.....**Petra today stands**.....desolate testimony to that fact

The truth of this story ...still relates to our times

People are still divided into those who depend upon themselves...**The Esau group**
And those who recognize their need for a relationship with God....**The Jacob**

The Esau group may not be completely godless.....

But they downplay their sins

Need for a Saviour.....

And commit themselves to building.....personal citadel

There own Petra.....family...career....wealth.....position....Last 4ever

The Jacob group is made up of people who are just as sinful....**mistakes....do wrong**

But they have put their trust in Jesus.....They have committed themselves....living 4

In OT times.....People would have looked at the Kingdom of Edom.....Israel

And would have seen Edom as in the best position

But in the final judgment of God.....Edom stands condemned without a Saviour

True Israel stands as the Redeemed of God...Secure in Him

Today those who have little to do with God.....seem in as good....and often....

a better position**than** those who belong to Jesus

But how quickly the final judgment will come.....**As** it did for Edom

So it will for our world.....

The major message of Obadiah is:→

Make sure that your life is linked with Jesus

Your future is secure in Him

