

The Kingdom of the Lord (*Obadiah*)

June 30, 2024

Obadiah recognizes that the hand of God is working in the lives of the neighbors of Judah in order to carry out his purposes.

Obadiah is revealing two basic aspects of the divine character. First, the holy, righteous God will judge where judgement is necessary. And two, the gracious, merciful God will always warn of impending judgement in order to give people time to repent.

Where are the great kingdoms? Where are the great empires? Gone. One thing is certain, those who congratulate themselves on their own greatness will hear God say, "I will make you small among the nations."

"When I read all this data concerning the moral disintegration in our country, I think that if God does not bring judgement against us, one day he will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." Ruth Bell Graham

"The pride of your heart has deceived you." (Obadiah 1:3)

They were so self-sufficient, so arrogant, so self-satisfied that they would not even call on the name of any kind of god. They believed they had all the answers themselves.

Such self-sufficiency says, "I can make it without God; I don't need God; I don't want God; God is irrelevant." That attitude will eventually, always, lead to the judgement of God.

Isaiah said, "Woe to those who...rely on horses, who trust the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen." (Isaiah 31:1)

If Obadiah's prophecy tells us anything, it is that those who are proud will fall, those who exalt themselves will be humbled by God, those who trust in their own strength and might will eventually come crashing down.

The Edomites were lulled into complacency by their worldly intellectualism. They had no interest in building wisdom based on the revelation of God. Their worldly wisdom ruled out any dependence upon God.

The judgement of God will inevitably fall on arrogant, self-sufficient, self-confident, worldly-wise people who rule out God and oppose his purposes.

Either we believe that God is sitting on the sidelines wringing his hands, bemoaning his irrelevance – or that the sovereign Lord is ruling and working.

Pride always comes before the fall. If we insist on our own greatness we will be humbled.

"If you will humble yourself under my mighty hand, I will exalt you. But if you exalt yourself, I will humble you." Matthew 23:12

Repentance and faith will lead inevitably to blessing. But the message of Obadiah is clear. Arrogant, hard-hearted, self-sufficiency based on worldly wisdom and worldly values will lead inevitably to God's judgement.

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