INTRODUCTION TO Obadiah

Obadiah is the last of the minor prophets, consisting of one chapter; the subject of it is the nation of Edom, whose destruction is foretold, and is to be considered as a type of enemy to Christ and his kingdom.

Like Joel, we are uncertain of the time period he lived in

Some of the ancients imagined Obadiah to be the same Obadiah that was steward to Ahab’s household (1Kings 18:3); and, who hid and fed about 2000 prophets. But that is a conjecture which has no grounds. This Obadiah, it is probable, was of a later date, some think contemporary with Hosea, Joel, and Amos; others think he lived about the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, when the children of Edom so barbarously triumphed in that destruction. [source: Matthew Henry Commentary]

Four prophecies against Edom,

1. Their pride to be humbled ......................Ob 1:2-4.
2. Their wealth to be plundered ....................Ob 1:5-7.
3. Their wisdom to be infatuated ....................Ob 1:8,9.
4. Their spiteful behavior toward Israel to be avenged ......Ob 1:10-16

Edom – a Nation Marked For Desolation

Who is Edom?
1. Edomites are descendants of Esau
2. Esau, God hated for his sins, but Jacob, God loved
3. Edom refused to give Israel passage as they traveled from Egypt to the Promise Land .... Nu 20:21
4. Edomites harassed Israel throughout their existence, even joining w/ Moabites & Philistines
5. Edom’s destruction is prophesied in: 9 OT books: Num; Isa; Jer; Lam; Eze; Joel; Amos; Oba; Mal

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS

Edom may be passé, but the following traits of God are exhibited:

- God’s patience to bring judgment on a nation
- God’s timing of world events ..........Any modern day examples?
- God’s preferential treatment of Israel (judgment & blessing)
- The varied options God has at his disposal to judge or bless

It is possible the only reason God raised up America is to be a friend to Israel in the last days..............Are we still friendly today?

America has given billions to Israel since its inception in 1948 (Military $$$ & Technology)

America has been a friend even when Israel was not friendly (e.g., U.S.S. Liberty)

It is humbling to think we are not the greatest nation in the world because of our smarts, or our resources – but simply because we are a tool God is using to usher in His kingdom

In recent years, our unequivocal support of Israel has wavered

In this future passage, can we expect harsher judgment from God’s hand?

NEXT WEEK: Zechariah 1-12. God brought hope to His people through prophetic promise of future glory