

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 01 March ..... Nahum 1-3 ..... Don't Mess with God
- 2) 08 March ..... Zephaniah 1-2 ..... Everyone is Accountable
- 3) 15 March ..... Zephaniah 3 ..... Our Great Salvation
- 4) 22 March ..... **Obadiah 1 ..... Compassion for Lost People**
- 5) 29 March ..... Zechariah 1-12 ..... The Promised Messiah
- 6) 05 April ..... Luke 24:1-12 ..... The Declaration
- 7) 12 April ..... Luke 24:19-35 ..... The Promise Fulfilled
- 8) 19 April ..... Zechariah 13-14 ..... A Refined People
- 9) 26 April ..... Habakkuk 1-2 ..... Hard Questions, Hard Answers
- 10) 03 May ..... Habakkuk 3 ..... Awestruck
- 11) 10 May ..... Haggai 1-2 ..... Seek God First
- 12) 17 May ..... Malachi 1 ..... True Hope
- 13) 24 May ..... Malachi 2 ..... Faithful
- 14) 31 May ..... Malachi 3 ..... A Pure People

**INTRODUCTION**

- Some people seem to get away with sin for years and years with little trouble, and if they are caught, they make money on it (Paris H., OJ Simpson, B. Clinton, child molesters...)
- God's patience extends even to the most vile sinner, seemingly at the expense of their victim(s) [e.g., Ted Bundy and others]
- But if no repentance, judgment day awaits for individuals and for nations ..... What can we do to help avert national judgment?
- Can we definitively tell if any nations, including ours, have fallen under God's wrath?
- Nations may be judged by other nations more wicked than they; or by "natural" catastrophes that lead to disease, hunger, and death; or by internal decay, e.g., Roman empire, which accommodated sins of immorality (sexual perversion, pedophilia, child sacrifice)
- Other nations disappeared from history due to their mistreatment of Israel – e.g., Assyria; Chaldeans, Philistines, Persia, ancient Rome; Hitler's Germany;

**INTRODUCTION TO Obadiah**

- Obadiah is the least 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 had 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

Passage	Comments
1:1-9	<p><b>Edom – a Nation Marked For Desolation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is Edom?                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Edomites are descendants of Esau</li> <li>2. Esau, God hated for his sins, but Jacob, God loved</li> <li>3. Edom refused to give Israel passage as they traveled from Egypt to the Promise Land..... Nu 20:21</li> <li>4. Edomites harassed Israel throughout their existence, even joining w/ Moabites &amp; Philistines</li> <li>5. Edom's destruction is prophesied in:9 OT books:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Num; Isa; Jer; Lam; Eze; Joel; Amos; Oba; Mal</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<p>6. Israel was commanded not to hate their cousins, the Edomites, or seek revenge (Deut 23:7). They were to allow God to bring justice..... Is this for us today?</p> <p>7. Ob 1:8 is referred to in 1Cor 1:19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edom's punishment will take several forms:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enemies will form alliances to slay them utterly ..... v1</li> <li>2. Population diminished to the pt of non-existence .. v2</li> <li>3. Arrogance/pride becomes deceptive ..... v3</li> <li>4. Their fall will be great due to their height ..... v4</li> <li>5. They will be pillaged &amp; plundered ..... v5-6</li> <li>6. Old allies will become bitter enemies..... v7</li> <li>7. Wisdom will turn to stupidity ..... v8 (see 1Cor 1:19)</li> <li>8. Slaughter will end it all ..... v9</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Edom's sins ..... vv 10-14                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Sins against Israel ..... v10</li> <li>♦ Joined forced w/ Israel's enemies ..... v11</li> <li>♦ Joyful over Israel's destruction ..... v12</li> <li>♦ Kicked Israel while they were down ..... v13</li> <li>♦ Took advantage of Israel's weaknesses ..... v14</li> </ul> </li> <li>• God's justice ..... vv 15-21                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Day of the Lord (i.e., time of God's vengeance)... v15</li> <li>♦ They reaped what they sowed .....v15b, 16</li> <li>♦ Finally, Israel inherits Edom's land..... v17-21</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Some Nations to be Obliterated from History; Others Restored	<p><b>Jer 46-51</b> Certain nations will never rise again, others will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nations to be utterly destroyed – Edom, Damascus (49:23-27), Kedar, Babylon</li> <li>• Nations to be destroyed then restored – Egypt, Moab, Ammonites, Elam (see Acts 2:9)</li> </ul> <p><b>Jer 49:16</b> Edom would be toppled and humbled</p> <p><b>1Cor 1:19</b> For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent (cf Obad 1:8)</p>

**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. If this continues, 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

