

THE PROPHET OF WORSHIP!

“OBADIAH”

WE WILL CONTINUE STUDING THE OLD TESTAMENT MINOR PROPHETS. THIS IS OUR 4TH. IN THIS SERIES. I HOPE YOUR ARE ENJOYING THIS STEADY AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT EACH PROPHET.

OBADIAH IS KNOWN AS THE PROPHET OF WORSHIP AND AUTHOR OF THIS BOOK.

THIS BOOK IS WRITTEN SHORTLY AFTER 586 B.C.

THE THEMES OF THIS BOOK: GOD’S JUDGMENT ON EDOM; THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR.

WE KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THIS PROPHET, SO WHAT MADE THIS WRITER BE A POWERFUL PROPHET OF GOD?

RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EDOM WERE MARKED BY ANIMOSITY THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT PERIOD. THE BITTERNESS BEGAN WITH TWO BROTHERS, ESAU AND JACOB PARTED COMPANY IN DISPUTE. SEE THE EVENTS RECORDED IN:

GENESIS 27; 32 – 33

ESAU’S DESCENDANTS EVENTUALLY SETTLED IN THE AREA CALLED EDOM, SOUTH OF THE DEAD SEA, WHILE JACOB’S DESCENDANTS CONTIUED THE PROMISED LINE, INHABITED CANAAN AND GREW INTO THEPEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

OVER THE YEARS, NUMEROUS CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE EDOMITES AND ISRAELITES DEVELOPED. SEE THESE EVENTS RECORDED IN:

NUMBERS 20:14 – 21

THIS BITTER RIVALRY FORMS THE BACKGROUND TO OBADIAH’S PROPHECY. OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT 20 YEARS (605 – 586 B.C.) THEREFORE, THE EDOMITES JOINED WITH THE BABYLONIANS AGAINST THEIR DISTANT RELATIVES AND HELPED TO DESECRATE THE LAND OF JUDAH. OTHER BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT DECRY THE PARTICIPATION OF THE EDOMITES IN JERUSALEM’S DESTRUCTION.

PS. 137:7 LAM. 4: 21,22 EZEK. 25:12 – 14

OBADIAH’S BOOK, THE SMALLEST BOOK IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. ONE CHAPTER, 21 VERSES.

BUT, THIS BOOK IN THE OLD TESTAMENTVIVIDLY DEPICTS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ENEMIES OF THE HUMAN SOUL. (PRIDE) THIS PROPHETIC BOOK SHEDS LIGHT ON THE DECEPTION AND DRSTRUCTION. WHAT, THE PRIDE OF THE HEART CAN BRING INTO PEOPLES LIVES. YET IT POINTS TO THE HOPE OF A KINGDOM THAT DECISIVELY REVERSES IT TYRENNY.

OBADIAH 1: 1 – 4 (PLEASE STUDY THE WHOLE CHAPTER)

THE KEY WORDS IS IN VERSE 3

PRIDE OF YOUR HEART HAS DECEIVED YOU!

PRIDE INCITES INSOLENT CRUDE!

PRIDE BRINGS DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR! SUCH AS REBELLION TOWARD GOD!

PRIDE BRINGS SHAME AND DESTRUCTION!

OBADIAH DECLARES GOD'S JUDGMENT ON EDM, THE DESCENDANTS OF ESAU. THE EDMITIES ARE ACCURSED OF SUPPORTING ISRAEL ENEMIES. BECAUSE OF THIS THEY WILL SUFFER GODS WRATH AT THE DAY OF THE LORD, THAT COMES ON ALL NATIONS.

OBADIAH 1: 15 (THIS IS OBADIAH'S KEY VERSE)

OBADIAH PROPHECY FOCUSES ON THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF PRIDE. THIS REMINDS US OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF LIVING IN A SELF-SERVING MANNER, OF FOLLOWING ON OUR OWN FEELING AND DESIRES, WITHOUT CONSIDERING THEIR IMPACT ON THOSE AROUND US.

THIS BOOK OF OBADIAH IS THE CERTAINTY OF DIVINE JUDGEMENT AGAINST PRIDEFUL OPPRESSION. (SPECIFICALLY, EDM) THE ULTIMATE RESTORATION AND TRIUMPH OF GOD'S KINGDOM PEOPLE. IT DECLARES THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL NATIONS AND THAT JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED TO THOSE WHO BEHAVE WITH ARROGANCE AND CRUELTY.

OBADIAH 1: 8

OBADIAH CALLS US TO CONFRONT THE INCREDIBLE COST OF PRIDE AND TO REALIZE THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING OUR PRIDE, FADES INTO OBLIVION WHEN WE MUST STAND FACE TO FACE WITH GOD AND TRY TO JUSTIFY OUR ARROGANCE WHEN HE CALLS US TO REPENT.

GALATIANS 6: 7

HERE OBADIAH PREVAILING THEME IS WELL STATED BY PAUL. OBADIAH SAYS AS YOU HAVE DONE, IT SHALL BE DONE TO YOU.

OBADIAH 1: 21

THE WORD SAVIOR TRANSLATED AS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SAVED, THEY ARE GOD'S PEOPLE. THE KINGDOM SHALL BE THE LORDS. THIS IS STATING THAT ALL THE WORLD AND ALL THE PEOPLE COME UNDER THE DOMINION OF ONE TRUE GOD. OBADIAH BRINGS HIS MESSAGE OF ASSURANCE THAT GOD HAS NEITHER FORGOTTEN HIS PEOPLE NOR OVERLOOK THE WICKEDNESS OF THE EDMITES. BOTH THE DAY OF THE LORD, VERSE 15 AND THE LORDS KINGDOM VERSE 21 PROCLAIMED BY OBADIAH, ANTICIPATE THE ENTRY OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD

FOOTNOTE TO OBADIAH!

NOWHERE DO WE SEE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, OR THE SPIRIT OF GOD. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THOUGH, GOD USES HUMAN AGENTS TO CARRY OUT HIS JUSTICE, BEHIND IT ALL IS THE WORKING OF HIS SPIRIT:

- 1. PUSHING!**
- 2. PROMPTING!**
- 3. REPROVING!**

ACCORDING TO GODS PLAN.

FOOTNOTE TO ABADIAH!

OBADIAH FORCEFULLY ADDRESSES THE MATTER OF RELATIONSHIP. HOW EASY IT IS FOR THOSE WE KNOW BEST TO BECOME THE OBJECTS OF OUR MOST BITTER RESENTMENT.

NEXT MONTH

PROPHET OF A REBELLIOUS HEART!

“JONAH”