



GROWTH POINT

MIDWEEK SERVICE

Title: Obadiah—My Brother’s Keeper
Tonight’s Speaker: Dr. Michael Lester
Date: January 15, 2020

INTRODUCTION

INVESTIGATIVE QUESTIONS

1. Who is this _____?
 - a. Obadiah, a name meaning “Servant [Worshipper] of Jehovah”
 - b. Obadiah doesn’t list his father’s name, nor does he list which king he prophesied under—thus, the name is too common to be exact

2. When did he _____?
 - a. Because of the lack of concrete identifying clues, the dating for Obadiah is far-ranging.
 - b. Some commentators place the writing in the 9th Century BC. Others in the 6th Century.
 - c. Somewhere between 850–550BC is what is argued.
 - d. Obadiah is the first prophet to write.
 - i. This places his prophecy around 850 BC.
 - ii. Why?
 1. Joel 2:32 quotes Obadiah 17 (So Obadiah has to be written first)
 2. Jeremiah 49:7-22 allude to Obadiah 1:1-9 (Jeremiah is quoting him)
 3. The other dates put forth some good arguments, but the date tips to the early side based on:
 - a. Jewish placement in the canon
 - b. Quotations and allusions to Obadiah by Jeremiah, Joel and Amos

Overview of Edom's History

- The Edomites were the descendants of Esau (Jacob's twin brother)
- There was hostility between both nations throughout the Old Testament
- David brought the Edomites under his control
- The Edomites revolted during the reign of King Jehoram (850–840BC, see *2 Kings 8:20–22*)
- Battle for control of the land continued as Edom lived in the rocks with great defense (Petra)
- In the NT, the Edomites are known as the Idumeans, of which, Herod the Great was the most famous New Testament character

3. Why is he _____?

- a. In the days of King Jehoram, the Edomites revolted from under Judah's control (2 Chronicles 21:8–10)
- b. Around the same time, the Philistines and Arabs attacked Judah (2 Chronicles 21:16–17)
- c. During the invasion, the Edomites celebrated, cheered on the attacks, and participated in dividing the spoils.
- d. Then God struck Jehoram with an incurable disease. He departed “without being desired,” and he was not buried in the sepulcher of the kings (2 Chronicles 21:18–20).
 - i. The judgment upon Jehoram was just.
 - ii. The rejoicing of God's judgment by Edom was not.
 - iii. Thus, Obadiah announces God's judgment upon Edom.

4. What's the _____?

- a. God is pronouncing judgment upon Edom.
 - i. While many prophets mention the Gentile nations, only a few direct their entire book toward them:
 - ii. Obadiah: Edom
 - iii. Nahum: The Ninevites of Assyria
 - iv. Jonah: The Ninevites of Assyria
- b. The key phrase for the book: “Yes, I am my brother's keeper...”
- c. The key verse: Verse 15—Edom will reap what she has sown.

5. How is _____ pictured here?

- a. This book reminds us that there is One who sits in Judgment over all nations (15–16).
- b. This book reminds us that there is One who is bound in an eternal covenant to Israel (17–20).

- c. This book reminds us that there is One who will one day sit as King of all kings in His coming world Kingdom.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

1. **The Coming Destruction of Edom** (vv. 1–9)
 - a. Her pride and arrogance would be humbled (3–4)
 - b. Her greed and wealth would be plundered (5–7)
 - c. Her people—the wise and mighty—would be slaughtered (8–9)
2. **The Reason for Edom’s Judgment** (vv. 10–16)
 - a. She was “violent” against Jacob (10)
 - b. She aided and abetted Israel’s enemies (11–14)
 - c. God would judge and humble Edom (15–16)
 - i. Edom spoiled Israel; so she would be spoiled (13; 6)
 - ii. Edom killed Judean fugitives; so her men would be killed (14; 8)
 - iii. She returned survivors to the enemy, so her allies expelled her (14, 7)
 - iv. She rejoiced over Judah’s losses, so she was covered with shame (12, 10)
3. **The Future Kingdom for Israel** (vv. 17–21)
 - a. Mount Zion is greater than the mountains of Esau (17)
 - b. Esau will be consumed into extinction (18)
 - c. Israel will possess the land of Edom (19–20)
 - d. Jesus will establish His kingdom (21)

Take-aways for today’s believer:

- Let God determine your significance. Edom forgot this.
- The law of sowing and reaping is relevant in all dispensations.
- God’s people should love mercy, walk humbly, and live righteously.
- Even when circumstances seem bleak, a covenant-keeping God has never lost control.

CONCLUSION



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