

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

July 3rd, 2011

Edom's Judgment

Focal Passage:

Obadiah

Cross References: Rom 5:10, Is 14, Ezk 28, Gal 6:7-8, Hosea 8:7, Prov 26:27,

(Verses taken from the ESV)

Central Idea: Obadiah is a study of the curses and blessings shown in Gen 12:1-3. Edom chose to curse God's people, and suffered the consequences.

Lesson Idea: God's judgment comes to those who refuse to abide by his commands. Our choices all have consequences, are we making choices that lead to good results?

Background: The Edomites trace their origin to Esau, the firstborn son of Isaac and Rebekah who struggled with Jacob in Rebekah's womb (Gen 25:22). Esau's name means "hairy", he is also called Edom, meaning "red", because of the sale of his birthright for some red stew (Gen 25:30). Esau settled in a region of rugged mountain south of the Dead Sea called Edom (Idumea in Greek). The struggle and birth of Jacob and Esau forms the background to the prophecy of Gen 25:23 "Two nations are in your womb" their respective national descendants, Israel and Edom, were perpetual enemies.

Herod the Great an Idumean, became king of Judea under Rom in 37 B.C. In a sense, the enmity between Esau and Jacob was continued in Herod's attempt to murder Jesus. The Idumeans participated in the rebellion of Jerusalem against Rom and were defeated along with the Jews in 70 A.D. The Idumeans (Edomites) died trying to defend Jerusalem in 70 A.D. After that time, they were never heard of again. As Obadiah prophesied they would be "cut off forever" in Vs 10 and "no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau" in Vs 18.

Bible in a Year Readings

June 26th-July3rd, 2011

June 26: I King 15:25-16:34, II Chron 17

June 27: I King 17-19

June 28: I King 20-21

June 29: I King 22, II Chron 18

June 30: II Chron 19-23

July 1: Oba, Ps 82-83

July 2: II King 1-4

July 3: II King 5-8

Highlights of the Week:

I Kings 16: Ahab is made King

I Kings 17: Elijah raises the widow's son

I Kings 18: Elijah on Mount Carmel

I Kings 19: Elisha follows Elijah

I Kings 21: Ahab and the Vineyard

I Kings 22: Ahab's Death

II Chron 21: Jehoram's reign/death

II Kings 2: Elijah taken to heaven

II Kings 4: Elisha and the Shunammite woman's son

II Kings 5: Elisha cures Naaman

Obadiah 1-9 The Coming Destruction of Edom

¹ Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom: We have heard a report from the LORD,
and a messenger has been sent among the nations:

"Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!" ²Behold, I will make you small among the nations;
you shall be utterly despised.

³ The pride of your heart has deceived you,
you who live in the clefts of the rock,
in your lofty dwelling,
who say in your heart,
"Who will bring me down to the ground?"

⁴ Though you soar aloft like the eagle,
though your nest is set among the stars,
from there I will bring you down,
declares the LORD.

⁵ If thieves came to you,
if plunderers came by night—
how you have been destroyed!—
would they not steal only enough for themselves?

If grape gatherers came to you,
would they not leave gleanings?

⁶ How Esau has been pillaged,
his treasures sought out!

⁷ All your allies have driven you to your border;
those at peace with you have deceived you;
they have prevailed against you;
those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you—
you have no understanding.

⁸ Will I not on that day, declares the LORD,
destroy the wise men out of Edom,
and understanding out of Mount Esau?

⁹ And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman,
so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.

DISCUSSION:

- Who did Obadiah prophesy about?
- Who were the Edomites?
- What caused them to be proud?
- Read Vs 1-9 again, read Is 14:12-15 and Ezk 28:11-19 and compare with Obadiah 2, 4, and 8. Who was really behind this oppression of Israel?

- How do verses 6-9 show that we reap what we sow? Gal 6:7-8, Hosea 8:7.

Obadiah 10-14 **The Reason for Edom's Destruction**

¹⁰ *Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob,
shame shall cover you,
and you shall be cut off forever.*

¹¹ *On the day that you stood aloof,
(on the day that strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were like one of them.*

¹² *But do not gloat over the day of your brother
in the day of his misfortune;
do not rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their ruin;
do not boast^e
in the day of distress.*

¹³ *Do not enter the gate of my people
in the day of their calamity;
do not gloat over his disaster
in the day of his calamity;
do not loot his wealth
in the day of his calamity.*

¹⁴ *Do not stand at the crossroads
to cut off his fugitives;
do not hand over his survivors
in the day of distress.*

DISCUSSION:

- What were the Edomites rejoicing about?
- What had Edom (Esau) done wrong? How had they shown this? What did they do to the nation of Israel (Vs 11-14)
- What should they have done for their brother, Israel?
- In what ways do we treat brothers and sisters in Christ the way Edom treated Israel? In what ways do we treat other Biblical Churches the way Edom treated Israel? What could some consequences of these actions be?

Obadiah 15-21

The Day of the Lord and God's Restoration of Israel

¹⁵For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you;
your deeds shall return on your own head.

¹⁶For as you have drunk on my holy mountain,
so all the nations shall drink continually;
they shall drink and swallow,
and shall be as though they had never been.

¹⁷But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape,
and it shall be holy,
and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions. ¹⁸The house of Jacob shall be a fire,
and the house of Joseph a flame,
and the house of Esau stubble;

they shall burn them and consume them,
and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau,
for the LORD has spoken. ¹⁹Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau,
and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines;
they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria,
and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

²⁰The exiles of this host of the people of Israel
shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath,
and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
shall possess the cities of the Negeb.

²¹Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion
to rule Mount Esau,
and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

DISCUSSION:

- Again refer to Gal 6 and Hosea 8, how does this show that we reap what we sow according to verse 15? Prov 26:27.
- What did Obadiah say would be done to the Edomites?
- What would happen to Israel? What would they possess (Vs 16-20)? What does this show about God's dealings with His people?
- What will happen to the house of Esau?

APPLICATION

- Does God have enemies? Rom 5:10. Would our culture agree with this? Why or why not?
- How do we know if we are God's Enemy or God's friend?
- Edom was guilty of putting their hope/trust/security in things other than God (Vs 2-4). Are there areas in your heart and life that you look to for security other than Him? What needs to be done to change that?
- How does this book show that God is in control, even in the issues of sin? Was God right in his dealings with Edom for their sin against God and their actions against Israel? Does this change the way we look at God's dealing with our sin and our actions against His people?
- How can it encourage us to know that God will always, without fail, fight for His children?