

INTRODUCTION...

- **THE WHOLE COUNSEL - OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT...**
 - We study through the New Testament every Sunday morning – from **Matthew** to **Revelation**
 - And every Wednesday night we study through the Old Testament – **Genesis** to **Malachi**
 - If we only get a chance to hear the NT – we will miss out on about 75% of the Bible!
 - The NT sits on the foundation and history of the OT – and is essential to unveiling its truths!
 - If there is any doubt on how important the OT is – the NT lets us know...
 - The New Testament included approximately 250 quotations from the Old Testament ...
 - If we include indirect or partial quotations - the number jumps to more than 1,000!
 - The quotes come from every book of the Old Testament – with the exception of Obadiah!
 - **So to wet your appetite we will take this opportunity to dive into the riches that is the OT!**
 - Speaking of **Obadiah** – the 4th of what is known as the 12 Minor Prophets...
 - Lets open the Bible to the Book of Obadiah – if for no other reason than to find it...
 - It is the shortest book in the Old Testament – just 21 verses
- **THE PROPHETS...**
 - Major and Minor Prophets...
 - There are 16 prophetic books in the Old Testament – broken up into 2 sections...
 - There are 4 Major Prophets – **Isaiah** / **Jeremiah** / **Ezekiel** / and **Daniel**...
 - And there are 12 Minor Prophets – from **Hosea** to **Malachi**...
 - They are not minor in that they are less important – they are just shorter in length!
- **THE BOOK OF OBADIAH...**
 - 1st - Who was **OBADIAH** ...
 - The simple answer is – we have no idea...
 - His name means the ‘servant of Yahweh’ – but we do not know where he was from...
 - We do not know when he prophesied – or where he prophesied!
 - **That has not stopped people from guessing - I am amazed at how people can fill in the blanks!**
 - **If the Bible is silent – so should we be – it is VERY dangerous to make assumptions...**
 - **The Bible does not give us answers to EVERY question...**
 - **It DOES give us answers to the MOST important question – how to have eternal life...**
 - **If we get that one right – we can ask Jesus about all the rest in Heaven!**
 - 2nd - We do know who Obadiah prophesied about...
 - A book of contrast – Obadiah compares the dependents of Esau and Jacob!
 - Edom was the home of the descendants of Esau - brother of Jacob/Israel...
 - While Jacob became Israel - a man governed by God - became a Godly nation...
 - Esau was only concerned about his daily needs - sold his birthright for soup...

- And when Jacob stole his blessing – deceiving old blind Isaac by dressing up like Esau...
- Esau begged his father for some – even one – of the blessings – **Genesis 27:34**
- But there was nothing left for Esau – and he hated his brother from that day on!
- The decedents of Esau followed his example - they cared very little about God...
 - And carried a passionate hatred for Israel – always looking for opportunities to harm them!
 - Many today are like Esau – they reject their birthright as the children of God...
 - Seeking only after the things of this world – only to find they end up with nothing!
 - Seeking riches and blessings – only to find poverty and bitterness!

THE FALL OF EDMOM... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST – THE JUDGMENT OF EDMOM... vs. 1-9**
 - o **1st – The Vision of Obadiah... vs. 1-2**
 - This is what the Lord God (*Adonai YHVH*) says concerning Edom...
 - God sent out a messenger (*ambassador*) to spread a rumor among the nations...
 - Get ready everyone! Let us assemble our armies and attack Edom!
 - God made Edom appear small (*vulnerable*) and made them greatly despised by the nations!
 - Because if any nation is great and prosperous - it is only by the providence of God...
 - If any nation is brought low and destroyed - it is by His justice!
 - o **2nd – The pride of Edom... vs. 3-4**
 - In their pride Edom thought they were untouchable / indestructible...
 - They built grand cities in the ‘clefts of the rocks’ – speaking of their carved marvels...
 - Cities like Petra (*rock*) in modern day Jordan – 3000 ft. up in the mountains...
 - To get to Petra - narrow canyon only wide enough for people to pass through single file!
 - Once inside all the buildings are ornately carved into the sandstone walls of cliffs!
 - Even though they ascended as high as the eagles / nest among the stars (*high up*)...
 - They were not protected from the Lord - God would bring them crashing down!
 - Turn on the news and most headlines are warning about the corona virus...
 - No matter how great a nation – something so small can bring the mighty to their knees!
 - We have a unique position in America – we feel like we are untouchable!
 - We are separated from the rest of the world by oceans – live in mighty cities!
 - But even though our nation has the symbol of an eagle / and stars on our flag...
 - The greatness of America has nothing to do with our history / politics / or justice...
 - We are only great because of God – and if we turn our back on God – heaven help us!
 - **Proverbs 16:18** – “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”
 - o **3rd – The complete destruction of Edom... vs. 5-9**
 - Thieves will rarely take everything someone owns (*limited by what they can carry*)...
 - And those who harvest grapes will always leave some behind for the poor...
 - But in the destruction of Edom nothing would leave behind!
 - Every hidden treasure would uncovered – every ally would betray them...
 - God would destroy all the wise man – the men of Teman - **Jeremiah 49:7-21** (*parallel*)
 - The men of Teman were known for their wisdom – **Job 2:11** (*Temanite*)
 - All the mighty men – speaking of the military - would flee in terror!
 - So that God could completely wipe out the Edomites – not one would survive!
 - Herod the Great was from Idumea - or he was an Edomite....
 - The last of the Edomites was his family - from there they disappear from history!
 - The Edomites would look to everything but God for salvation...

- They would look to money (*treasure*) – they would look to their friends (*allies*)...
- They would look to their education (*wise man*) – and their military (*mighty men*)...
- But everything would fail them – in the day when the Lord came to judge them!
- **One day everyone will stand before the Judgment seat of Christ – in that day...**
- **Money will not save us – friends cannot help us – there will be no debate (*wisdom*)...**
- **And there will be no fight – just a simple question – did we believe in Jesus!**

■ **2ND – THE 3 REASON FOR THE JUDGMENT... vs. 10-16**

o 1st – Because of what Edom did not do... vs. 10-11

- When Babylon conquered Judah the people of Edom did nothing to help Israel...
 - When the people were carried off into captivity – the Edomites acted like a stranger!
 - Not that Israel was easy to love – there were issues – but they were still to help them!
 - **Galatians 6:2** – tells us to bear one another burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ...
 - **The Law of Christ - is to love each other the way Jesus loved us - John 15:12**
 - **God did not love us only when we did the right thing - He loves us as sinners...**
 - **Romans 5:8** - “God demonstrates His love ... while we were sinners, Christ died for us!”
- It is easy to love someone who is perfect - is not struggling with sin...
 - **But that is not the Love of Christ - we are called to Love sinners!**
 - **And if we do not help out a brother in need – we are danger of judgment!**
 - **James 4:17** – “To him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.”

o 2nd – Because of 3 things Edom did do (*and should not have*)... vs. 12-14

- Edom gloated when Israel was taken into captivity... vs. 12
 - They rejoiced the day Judah was destroyed – when Nebuchadnezzar entered Jerusalem...
 - Edom spoke proudly against Judah in the day of their distress!
 - **Psalms 137:7** – “O LORD, remember what the Edomites did on the day the armies of Babylon captured Jerusalem. ‘Destroy it!’ they yelled. ‘Level it to the ground!’” (NLT)
 - **There are those who like to look down on the mistakes of others...**
 - **The reason - if they focus on others mistakes - it makes them look better...**
 - **Want to look tall – stand next to the short guy / young – next to the old guy...**
 - **Did you even notice how people love to gossip about those who are sinning...**
 - **As though somehow they are more righteous – because at least they are ‘not as bad’!**
 - **But God does not grade on a curve - He has only one standard - His Word...**
 - **And compared to His standard - all of us are in desperate need of Jesus!**
- Edom plundered (*entered the gates*) of Israel in the day of their calamity... vs. 13
 - The Edomites were there the day Jerusalem was destroyed...
 - But rather than helping their relatives – they just watched as they were slaughtered...
 - Then they went into the houses and began to plunder all their goods!
- Edom refused to help the survivors... vs. 14
 - They turned away those who fled to the south trying to escape the Babylonian army...
 - They even captured the Jews – and turned them over as prisoners of war!
 - **When a believer is in trouble – and needs help - Christians tend to attack...**
 - **Rather than picking them up - they instead are quick to judge...**
 - **Christians unfortunately are famous for ‘shooting their wounded!’**
 - **Or the tendency is to ‘leave those in need alone’ when we should be ‘loving them’...**
 - **But it should not be that way in the church - we are to be known by love!**
 - **John 13:35** - “All will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

o 3rd – Because of the Day of the Lord... vs. 15-16

- The Day of the Lord is coming to all the nations...

- In other words Edom was not just in danger of temporal judgment...
- It was not just about the certain destruction as a result of their hard heart towards Israel...
- They were also in danger of being judged at the White Throne of God – **Revelation 20:11**
- As you have done – it shall be done to you...
 - Just as Edom drank from the Holy Mountain – speaking of consuming the people of God...
 - So the nations would drink from Edom – and consume them – as though they never existed!
 - **Matthew 7:2** – “For others will treat you as you treat them. Whatever measure you use in judging others, it will be used to measure how you are judged.”
 - We often tend to forget when others make mistakes – we are sinner as well...
 - And when we make mistakes – we do not want the Law – justice – we want GRACE!
 - If we remember that – we will be far gentler when others make mistakes!

▪ **3RD – THE CONTRAST OF EDMON TO ISRAEL... vs. 17-21**

- o 1st – Edom would be destroyed – but Israel will be delivered... vs. 17
 - On Mount Zion there will be deliverance (*escape*)...
 - Mount Zion is a reference to one of the hills that the city of Jerusalem sits upon...
 - Used as a synonym for the City of David / and the site of the Temple mount!
 - The people of Israel would be delivered from the captivity – and returned to Jerusalem!
 - Perhaps a reference to Cyrus – 539 B.C. – but more likely pointing to May 14 – 1948!
 - Because as we will see – this is the restoration of both the Northern and Southern Kingdom!
 - In Israel there will be holiness...
 - Holiness - *kadosh* - to be set apart for God - to be called out of this world...
 - The desire of God for Israel was for them to be Holy – **Leviticus 19:2**
 - But they failed miserably – until they failed – and learned this world had nothing for them!
 - We are indoctrinated from our youth up with the American creed...
 - Get a good education / so you can get a good job / so you can make lots of money...
 - Yet the more successful we are – the harder it often can be to see the real purpose of life!
 - Ironically it often takes failing in life – to finally understand what life is about...
 - When we lose everything we thought was important – it causes us to look up...
 - It is then that we find that the ONLY thing in life that matters – is holiness...
 - Knowing Jesus – being set apart from this world – and living for God!
 - The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions...
 - Not only would God bring His people home / and restore them to Him...
 - He would also restore their possessions – all they had lost through their sin!
 - When we get caught up in sin – it destroys our lives – leaves us full of regret...
 - Many of us can reflect back on years wasted - not living for the Lord...
 - We can often regret those ‘lost years’ wishing we could have them back...
 - Yet when we turn to the Lord – not only does God restore us spiritually...
 - He often will also restore our possessions - bring back the blessings practically!
 - Only God can take a life that had nothing left but ashes – and make it beautiful!
 - **Isaiah 63:1** – “Beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair.”
- o 2nd – Israel will possess the Promised Land... vs. 18-19
 - The house of Jacob will be a fire / the house of Joseph a flame...
 - Speaking of the reunification of the nation of Israel – no longer divided...
 - They would together be the fire that would consume the stumble of the house of Esau!
 - The contrast is powerful – Esau will cease to exist – but Israel will be reborn!
 - May 14 – 1948 – Israel was declared a nation after 2000 years of Diaspora...
 - For the first time since the days of Solomon – Israel was reunited...

- Fulfilling the prophecy of the two branches – Joseph and Judah made one - **Ezekiel 37:19**
 - United a force to be reckoned with – a military power that consumed their enemies!
 - Israel has won 15 wars over the past 70 years – against far larger nations...
 - Egypt / Iraq / Jordan / Libya / Saudi Arabia / Lebanon / Yemen / Algeria / Morocco / USSR!
 - In fact in the 1948 War of Independence no one stood with Israel!
 - Britain (*who had the Palestine Mandate*) took all the guns from Israel before leaving...
 - Even the United States / Europe refused to give an arms to Israel...
 - Yet even without tanks / artillery / or planes (*all of which their enemies had*) they won!
- Israel united would finally possess the Land God had promised them...
 - **Joshua 1:4** – “From the Negev Desert in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River on the east to the Mediterranean Sea on the west...”
 - In the south (*Negev*) – they would possess the mountains of Esau (*Eilat*)...
 - Lowlands will possess Philistia (*Gaza*) – the fields of Ephraim and Samaria (*West Bank*)...
 - Benjamin will possess Gilead (*the Golan heights*)!
 - The list of places Israel will possess – should sound VERY familiar...
 - They are the very places that we hear constantly about in the news – Palestine...
 - The name Palestine is derived from the Latin word for Philistines...
 - It was a name first given to Judea by the Romans – after the Jewish revolt of 132 A.D.
 - Up until the 1960s it was a term that was synonymous with Jews...
 - There was even a Palestinian regiment of the British Army in World War II – all Jews!
 - At the beginning of the War of Independence in 1948 – Arabs fled ‘Palestine’...
 - Israel won the war – but failed to capture the West Bank (*Jordan*) / Gaza (*Egypt*)...
 - Any Arabs who stayed in Israel became citizens (*and still are to this day*)...
 - Those Arabs who fled ended up in refugee camps – never assimilated by Egypt / Jordan!
 - When Israel captured the West Bank / Gaza in 1967 – they inherited those camps...
 - They could not integrate the Arabs into Israel – they outnumbered the Jews (*democracy*)...
 - Yasser Arafat began the lie of the Palestinian people – tell it loud enough / long enough...
 - The ‘Palestinians’ are just Jordanian Arabs who were orphaned by their country in 1948!
 - The world debates over whether Israel has a right to the Palestinian territory...
 - But it turns out God prophesied Israel would possess their land again over 2500 years ago!
 - The struggle is not about Land – it is God’s Land – the struggle is spiritual...
 - And there will not be any peace in Israel – until the Messiah comes!
 - **Psalms 122:6** – “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...” – or pray for Jesus to come!
- o 3rd – The exiles will return... vs. 20-21
- From among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath (*near Sidon / Lebanon*)...
 - The exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad (*separated*) will seize the Negev...
 - Then those who have been saved (*yashah*) – will come to Jerusalem (*Mount Zion*)...
 - And judge the mountains of Esau (*nations*) - and the Kingdom will belong to the Lord!
 - At the end of the 7 years of Tribulation - Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse...
 - He will return with ten thousands saints – **Revelation 19:6 / Jude 1:14** – that would be us!
 - All of Israel (*the nation*) will be saved - **Zechariah 12:10 / Romans 11:26**
 - Jesus will judge the nations – those who survived the Tribulation – **Matthew 25:31-46**
 - And we will all rule and reign with Jesus in His 1000 year Kingdom - **Revelation 20:1-4!**
 - The question Obadiah leaves with us – do we want judgement or redemption...
 - Edom was destroyed because they lived for this world – made them bitter / unforgiving...
 - Israel was FAR from perfect but they were redeemed – because they looked for heaven!
 - We worry and fret over what kind of job we will get / who we will marry...

- We can even spend hours deciding what we are going to wear in the morning...
- But we often overlook - the most-important decision of all - our eternity!
- God sets the choice before every man – judgement or redemption - which do we want!
- **Deuteronomy 30:19** – “I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life...”