

Lesson 32 - Obadiah Questions

These questions should be completed before the Wednesday class on **December 18, 2019**. Write your answers either on the back of this page or on a separate sheet of paper. Where possible and appropriate, **CITE THE VERSE** that supports your answer.

Read Obadiah 1-21

1. According to verse 1 of Obadiah, the message is “*concerning Edom*.” Who were the Edomites? (see Gen. 25:19-34; Gen. 27)
 - a. What was the significance of the “birthright” that Esau sold to Jacob?
 - b. What was the significance of the “blessing” that Jacob received by deception?
 - c. In your own words describe the nature of the rivalry between Jacob and Esau.
2. In what sense will Edom be made small among the nations (Obadiah 3); and why will she be utterly despised?
 - a. According to verses 3, 10 & 11 of Obadiah, what are the reasons for Edom’s downfall? What lessons and warnings are contained in these verses for us today?
 - b. What specific event is referenced in verse 11? Why would God punish Edom in such a dramatic fashion for not intervening on behalf of their brothers?
 - c. Compare Obadiah 11 to Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. List any parallels and/or contrasts you see between these two texts.
3. Make a list of all the “*Do not*” statements in verses 12-14; and write a short explanation of each one.
 - a. How might we be guilty in our day of “gloating” over someone else’s misfortune (vs.12-13)?
 - b. What is “the day of the Lord” that is spoken of in verse 15?
 - c. What do the statements in verse 15 “*As you have done, it shall be done to you*” and “*your deeds shall return on your own head*” teach us about the nature of God’s justice?
4. Are the references to “drinking” and “swallowing” in verse 16 meant to be taken literally (as in a drunken celebration) or metaphorically (as in drinking the cup of God’s wrath)? Explain your answer.
 - a. The first 15 verses (and possibly verse 16, depending on your interpretation) are primarily directed toward Edom, and reveal God’s declaration of judgement. In the remaining verses, attention is shifted toward the descendants of Jacob, and reveal God’s promise of restoration. Read again Malachi 1:1-5 and Romans 9:10-13. What do these passages teach us regarding God’s Judgement on Edom, and His love and mercy toward Jacob?
 - b. Who are “those who escape” in verse 17, and what do they escape from?
5. What are the “possessions” that Jacob will possess (v.17; 19-20) and why is this important? (see also: Genesis 35:5-15; 48:3-4)
 - a. Who are the “exiles” mentioned in verse 20a and 20b? Is the second group of exiles the same as the first, or are they different? Explain your answer.
 - b. In the final analysis, what does Obadiah teach us about the struggles and conflicts between nations throughout history? How can the message of Obadiah bring comfort to believers today?