

## **LESSONS ABOUT SIN FROM OBADIAH**

**Rom.15:4; 1Cor.10:11**

**Ed Dye**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Even though Obadiah is the shortest book in the O.T., we can learn some important lessons on sin from the example of Edom in the book – lessons that are vividly illustrated by the attitudes and actions of the nation of Edom, which once again confirms the truth of Rom.15:4 and 1Cor.10:11.
2. Edom is another name for Esau, who was the twin brother of Jacob. The descendants of Jacob were Jews or Israelites. The descendants of Esau were Edomites.
3. The relationship between Edom or the Edomites and Israel or the Israelites was most unfriendly – they were like fighting cousins, perhaps even worse than those of the legend of the Hatfields and the McCoys.
4. The book is the prophesy of Obadiah concerning the certainty of Edom’s destruction and the reason or reasons why.
5. To properly appreciate the important lessons about sin learned from the book, we first offer a four-fold analysis of the book to get a “bird’s eye” view of it and its purpose.

### **II. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. THE FOURFOLD ANALYSIS IS AS FOLLOWS**

1. Vv.1-9 reveal the certainty of Edom’s destruction, or the ruin of Edom, despite her dwelling place in and securely sheltered in her high habitation in clefts of the rock. It reveals that:--
  - a. Their sinfully, unjustified sense of security in their high, strong rocky position contributed to their defeat and downfall.
  - b. Their well-fortified position will not save them in spite of their feeling of impregnability.
  - c. Their allies will not save them, but will be summoned to take vengeance on them. And in spite of her supposed impregnable position, they will bring her down. It will be “the day of the Lord” against them!
  - d. Their wisdom will not save them from “the day of the Lord”.

2. Vv.10-14 reveal to us the reasons for her defeat, downfall and destruction.
  - a. Namely, her cruelty to Jacob and her rejoicing over Judah's adversity.
  - b. Because of the malice and unfriendliness that she has displayed towards Israel in the time of Israel's calamity, in that she rejoiced at her sister's disaster and even took part in it with her enemies!
3. Vv.15,16 prophesies that retribution is to be meted out to Edom for her sins. These verses declare that:--
  - a. The day of the Lord is near upon her.
  - b. She shall suffer at the hands of the heathen the very things she has inflicted upon Israel.
4. Vv.17-21 speaks of the future restoration of Israel.
  - a. Vv.17-20, the house of Jacob shall be delivered, and shall add to its possessions, and spread far and wide.
  - b. V.21, saviors or delivers shall come to Zion, and "the kingdom shall be the Lord."

## **B. SOME SOBERING, SOUL-SEARCHING LESSONS ABOUT SIN LEARNED FROM THE EVIL EXAMPLE OF EDM.**

1. The chief element or great cause of sin is **PRIDE**, Vv.1-3. Cf. 1Tim.3:6
  - a. In Prov.16:18 Solomon tells us that "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."
  - b. In Prov.6:17 he tells us that "a proud look (haughty eyes)" is one of seven things that the Lord "hates," that are "an abomination unto him." Cf. Lk.18:14; Rom.12:3; Phil.2:3; Jas.4:6; 1Pet.5:5.
  - c. Prov.8:13 tells us that God hates "pride and arrogancy." **WHY?**
    - (1) Because it hinders the guilty party coming to God, keeping God out of his thoughts, Psa.10:4; Cf. Job 21:15 (said of the wicked).
    - (2) Because it makes men reject God's work, Jer.43:2; Cf. Exo.5:2.
    - (3) Because it leads to ruin, Prov.16:18.
2. Sin shows itself in the mistreatment of others, in mental attitudes toward them (including indifference toward, even rejoicing in their mistreatment by others), as well as verbal and physical abuse, Vv.10-14.
  - a. Edom wrought physical violence against Jacob.

- b. Edom was indifferent toward Israel, they “stood on the other side” of (stood aloof from; offered no help to) Israel when her enemies came against her; in fact, Edom even joined as one with Israel’s enemies in an attempt to destroy Israel.
  - c. Edom rejoiced over the children of Judah in her destruction, and spoke proudly (marg. “magnified thy mouth”) in Israel’s day of distress. Cf. Rom.1:32; 12:15; 1Cor.13:6.
  - d. They even “stood at the crossroads” to cut off Israelites trying to escape their invaders.
  - e. God’s true servants and Christ’s loyal followers do just the opposite of the example of Edom, Mt.7:12; 5:43-48; 1Pet.2:21.
3. Sinners shall reap what they sow, of which Edom is an example, Vv.15-19a.
- a. Judg.1:7.
  - b. Lk.16:19-32.
  - c. Gal.6:7,8.
  - d. 2Cor.5:10; Eccl.12:13,14.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

- 1. Behold, sin is ever deceitful, destructive and an abomination unto God from whom nothing is hidden, Heb.3:13; Psa.139:1-12; Heb.4:13; Isa.59:1,2.
- 2. Also, be assured that sin will “find you out,” Num.32:20-23.
- 3. Unprepared at the resurrection and the judgment of all men, your sins will bring you “unto the resurrection of damnation,” Jno.5:28,29.