

Judgment of Edom

obadiah

MEMORY VERSE

Obadiah 1:10

“For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Blank white 8 1/2” x 11” paper, 1”x 6” black or silver strips of construction paper, scissors, markers and glue stick or a stapler.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Got Caught

In today’s lesson we will learn about the nation of Edom. They thought they were getting away with their sin but the Lord caught them. The Lord sees everything and can look into our hearts.

The object of this game is to follow directions and not to get caught by the teacher. Give the children a number between 1-10. It is OK to double up on numbers. Have the children stand up against the wall in your classroom (facing the wall). The teacher should stand on the other end of the room facing that wall. The teacher will then call out 1 or 2 numbers. Those children will then turn around and hop three times towards the teacher. The only catch is that they must do their hopping before the teacher turns around and catches them. If the teacher catches them before they are done then they must start over.

Give everyone a chance to play. The first person to make it to the teacher wins. But it might be that no one makes it to the end because they keep getting caught. Note to teacher – You may want to make it to where no one does win to further illustrate that no one can get away with sin without being caught just as we will see in our lesson today.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever heard the expression, “What goes around comes around”? As you grow older, you discover that this saying is true, but only because it expresses a truth found in God’s Word. “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

As we read the book of Obadiah, we will see the truth of God’s promise. We will learn that **God rights the wrongs against His people**. The people of the land of Edom were full of pride and self-confidence that turned against God’s people in Judah. They had sown the seed of pride and arrogance against the Jews, only to reap destruction. Obadiah graphically illustrates on a national scale the truth of Proverbs 16:18, “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Obadiah predicted that God would destroy Edom as punishment for helping others invade Judah. Because of their indifference and defiance of God, their cowardice and pride and their treachery toward their brother in Judah, they stand condemned and will be destroyed. Edom’s land would be given to Judah in the day when **God rights the wrongs against His people**. Let us see in our lesson today, what God will do to Edom to bring justice for His people.

OBADIAH 1:1-9

The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom (We have heard a report from the LORD, And a messenger has been sent among the nations, saying, "Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle"):

"Behold, I will make you small among the nations;
You shall be greatly despised.

The pride of your heart has deceived you, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'

Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," says the LORD.

"If thieves had come to you, If robbers by night; Oh, how you will be cut off!; Would they not have stolen till they had enough? If grape-gatherers had come to you, Would they not have left some gleanings?

"Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! How his hidden treasures shall be sought after!

All the men in your confederacy Shall force you to the border; The men at peace with you Shall deceive you and prevail against you. Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it.

"Will I not in that day," says the LORD, "Even destroy the wise men from Edom, And understanding from the mountains of Esau?

Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau May be cut off by slaughter.

Edom had rejoiced over the misfortunes of both Israel and Judah, and yet the Edomites and Jews descended from two brothers, Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:19-26). The struggle started in their mother's womb and they were always against each other. Edomites, the descendants of Esau, were rarely at peace with the Israelites, descendants of Jacob. God pronounced judgment on

Edom for their callous and malicious actions toward His people.
God rights the wrongs against His people.

Edom was the southern neighbor of Judah, who shared a common boundary. Yet, despite their common heritage Edom likes nothing about Judah. Edom was glad to see Judah in trouble (v. 12). Their hatred made them want the nation destroyed and because of this God would judge them.

The Edomites were proud of their self-sufficiency, finding security in a place called Petra. This city was considered impregnable because it was cut into a solid rock cliff and set in a canyon that could be entered only through a narrow gap. Today it is considered one of the marvels of the ancient world, but only as a tourist attraction. The city, which boasted of security, impregnable by enemies, would be overcome by God's judgment.

The Bible warns us that pride is the surest way to self-destruction (Proverbs 16:18). Just as Petra and Edom fell so will those of us who are proud. A humble person is more secure than a proud person because humility gives one a more accurate perspective of oneself and the world in relation to God. In humility we see our need for God, pride will only give us a warped view of ourselves. In humility God will lift us up, but in pride we will only be brought down.

What Edom perceived as strengths would be their downfall. God reveals five things in verses 3-9 that the people of Edom put their confidence in.

- 1) Safety in their city (God would send them plummeting from the heights).
- 2) Pride in their self-sufficiency (God would humble them).
- 3) Wealth (thieves would steal all they had).
- 4) Allies (God would cause them to turn against Edom).
- 5) Wisdom (they would be confused).

Though Edom felt secure from God's judgment, they would have no place to hide when God would judge their pride. **God rights the wrongs against His people.**

Prophetic Shoes

Have everyone in the class (including teachers and aides) sit in a large circle. Everyone should take his or her shoes off. This game will help us to review the names of the prophets that we have been studying about in recent weeks. When you say go have the children raise their hands if they can think of a name of a Bible prophet.

With every correct answer everyone should trade their shoes to their left. Keep playing until the children run out of names. If they are having trouble thinking of names you may give them hints. Some names would be Elijah, Elisha, Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah, Micah, Malachi, Nahum, Joel, Obadiah, Amos, Isaiah, etc... When no one can think of any more have the children try to put on the shoes that are in front of them. This should be rather challenging for some.

Here's the application you can make. The nation of Edom hated the nation of Israel. They took advantage of them and refused to turn to God themselves. God was now going to judge them. We need to remember to love those around us whether they know the Lord or not. We need to be willing to walk in their shoes for a while and try to relate to them. The Lord will help us to do that, but we must always be like Jesus towards them.

OBADIAH 1:10-14

"For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.

In the day that you stood on the other side; In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When

foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem; Even you were as one of them.

But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother In the day of his captivity; Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah In the day of their destruction; Nor should you have spoken proudly In the day of distress.

You should not have entered the gate of My people In the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction In the day of their calamity, Nor laid hands on their substance In the day of their calamity.

You should not have stood at the crossroads To cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained In the day of distress.

Out of all the neighbors of Israel and Judah, Edom would be the only one not promised God's mercy. They took advantage of Judah's misfortune by coming into their land after another nation attacked them, then looting them and taking pleasure in it. They betrayed their blood brothers in times of crisis and also aided their enemies (Psalm 137:7, Amos 1:11-12).

Edom was glad to see Judah in trouble. Whenever bad times struck, they waited and watched, hoping for their destruction. God would make an example of them for the entire world to see. His judgment on Edom would be a strong reminder that He alone is the judge.

We must never take pleasure in the misfortune of others. Have you ever been happy to see the misfortunes of others, even if they may have deserved it? We should always help those in a time of need. It is a beautiful way to show and express God's love to others as He

shines His light through our lives. Allowing God to work through us allows Him to work on those who are against us. We can face the opposition, trusting God for **God rights the wrongs against His people.**

OBADIAH 1:15-16

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

For as you drank on my holy mountain, So shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as though they had never been.

A time will come when God will judge all the Gentile nations. No one will escape God's judgment for the evil way they treat His people. God said their acts would boomerang upon their heads. Just like judgment will come upon Edom, those who have taken pleasure in Israel's troubles will suffer the same fate.

There are some nations today that treat God's people favorably, yet some are hostile towards them. God is going to judge everyone according to the way they treat others. Even believers will be held accountable for their actions. God will separate His obedient followers from pretenders and unbelievers (Matt. 25:31-46). The real evidence of our belief is the way we act and treat others. May we be found faithful to reach out to everyone in need, even our enemies, allowing God to deal justly with them. **God rights the wrongs against His people.**

OBADIAH 1:17-21

"But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.

The South shall possess the mountains of Esau, And the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim And the fields of Samaria. Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

And the captives of this host of the children of Israel Shall possess the land of the Canaanites As far as Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Shall possess the cities of the South.

Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau, And the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

Obadiah assures Edom that Israel will reoccupy the land. By 185 BC the Edomites were over-thrown by Judas Maccabeus. The words of Obadiah's prophecy must have seemed ridiculous to Edom since they seemed more likely to survive. Yet today Edom has vanished and Judah still exists. Edom had reaped what they had sown. God was true to His Word and faithful to take vengeance on those who had mistreated His people. **God rights the wrongs against His people.**

We have learned some important truths in our lessons today. We see the sovereignty of God to accomplish everything He promises. Evil will be punished, and those of us who are faithful to God will have hope for a new future. Nothing will be able to come against God's eternal kingdom because He will establish it. Any nation or individual that mistreats those of us who obey God will be punished; regardless of how strong or powerful they appear. **God**

rights the wrongs against His people. God brought justice for His people to reward Edom for the evil they had sown. In the end they reaped God's judgment.

Handcuffed by Sin

For this craft you will need blank white 8 1/2" x 11" paper, 1" x 6" black or silver strips of construction paper, scissors, markers and glue stick or a stapler.

Fold the paper in half to make a 4 1/2" x 5 1/2" rectangle. Have the children place their left hand onto the paper. The folded edge should be on the right side. The edge of the hand should be placed on the fold of the paper. Using a pencil, trace the outline of the hand. After tracing, cut along the lines that make the hand. Cut everywhere except the fold of the little finger and wrist, this will hold the hands together. This should make two hands that are attached at the palm and along the small finger.

Explain to the children that the people from Edom were bound and judged by God because of their sin. Sin will do the same thing in our lives. It will bind us and make us its slave. Where the fold connects the two hands cut a 1" slit near the bottom (by the wrist area). Find two 1" x 6" strips of black or silver construction paper. Pass them through the slit. Wrap one around one hand and the other around the other hand. Glue or staple the loops to make handcuffs. Write the memory verse or theme on the hands as a reminder to the children. Emphasize that sin will bind us just like being in handcuffs. When we follow Jesus we will find forgiveness and freedom from sin.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for how He takes care of His people. He is so good to us! If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.