



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 46. Obadiah & Jonah

- **Introduction to Obadiah**

- Author: Obadiah
- Date: Probably sometime between the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC) and the fall of Edom (553 BC), but it could be related to an earlier invasion of Jerusalem
- Context:
 - Edom ('_____') is the name of the nation descended from Esau.
 - Despite God's commands for Israel to show some measure of mercy to Edom because of their shared lineage (cf. Deut. 23:7–8), Edom was a constant thorn in their side.
 - Edom was located in an area of rugged mountains that provided homes and defense for the Edomites.
 - Obadiah aligns with prophecies found in Jer. 49:7–22; Lam. 4:21–22; Amos 1:11–12.
 - After suffering many conquests, Edom was wiped out in 70 AD and never heard from again.

- Main theme: God illustrates His _____ by allowing people to reap what they sow.

Obad. 15 – For the Day of the Lord draws near on all the nations.

As you have done, it will be done to you.

Your dealings will return on your own head.

- The first part of the book describes the judgment that will fall on Edom, but the second part makes it clear that this judgment is tied to how they treated Israel.
- The final part of the book zooms out to the Day of YHWH to show that this same principle will apply in the future when the rest of Israel's enemies will be judged.
- Edom's judgment was one of many Day of YHWH 'events' to help us better understand the coming judgment and develop our perspective on it; here, it informs us how God's justice will be on display.
- God's justice against those who harmed His people is also the tool that will bring _____ to His people.
- God's justice is on display in all of Creation when we expect logical results to our actions and when we expect 'the punishment to fit the crime.'

- **Introduction to Jonah**

- Author: Jonah (cf. 2 Kings 14:23–27)
- Date: Early-to-mid 8th century BC
- It is presented as factual, and Jesus cites it in Matt. 12:38–42/Luke 11:29–32.
- To this day, Jonah is read in synagogues on Yom Kippur, and when it is finished, the people stand and respond, “We are Jonah.”
- Context:
 - Ninevah was a major city in Assyria, an empire known not only for its ability to conquer, but also for its extreme level of cruelty shown toward those it conquered.
 - During these decades, Assyria was leaving Israel alone.
 - Israel’s moral and spiritual states had fallen far enough that God was beginning to send them the writing prophets, so it’s noteworthy that He also sent one to a _____ nation at the same time.
- Main theme: God’s people should share His love for the rest of the _____.

- This book is rooted in the reality that all human beings are created in the image of God.
- Chapter 4 displays this thesis, but it builds on all that came before.
- The indictment of Jonah is not ultimately against Jonah himself, but against the nation of Israel.
- This indictment is not just of their evangelism; it's also calling out their _____.
- Other themes include:
 1. God's sovereignty
 2. The ability of God to penetrate any heart
 3. Biblical repentance
 4. The need for obedience
 5. God as a gracious Father to us

Discussion:

1. What are some examples of 'the punishment fitting the crime' that we see around us?
2. How should the Church balance the need to pursue sanctification with the need to go after the lost?

FOR REFLECTION: Do you see yourself in Jonah? What sinful attitudes is God your Father trying to correct?

Blanks: red, justice, restoration, Gentile, world, apostasy