Obadiah

This document contains the teacher notes for three Sunday school lessons walking through Obadiah. There is a complementary document containing student handouts that can be shared with listeners to aid them with this material. Lastly, there are three PowerPoint presentations to assist with visually displaying this content. All of these resources are available at OurSundaySchool.com.

I claim no infallibility relative to the material presented here. It is, as many have said before, beggars showing other beggars where to find bread. These resources are provided free for you to use in the spirit of Matthew 10:8b.

As errors are found, please let me know so I can correct. The theology expressed here should not be construed as representing the theology of Stuart Heights Baptist Church (especially when I am wrong or when I am being an idiot).

The formatting is as follows:

- **bold green text are quotes from outside sources**
- **bold red text is the Scripture** (NKJV is used unless otherwise noted. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.)
- **bold blue text are Bible references**
- **bold purple text are questions to consider asking listeners while teaching this material**
- **highlighted, bold, and underlined text in the teacher notes are answers to blanks in the student handouts**
- plain black text are my comments

The audio recordings of these teachings are available via our class podcast (Our Sunday School).

I hope these resources assist in enabling you to teach through Obadiah. Feel free to contact me at jim314@yahoo.com with questions or feedback.

Grace and peace,

Jim Fleming
Hixson, Tennessee
January 2018
Obadiah

Introduction & The Coming Judgment on Edom (Obadiah 1:1-9)

Part 1: Introduction (of Obadiah)

Where is Obadiah in the Bible? (source: Challies.com)

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

When was Obadiah written? (source: firstpresaugusta.org)

Talk about the variety of perspectives (pre-exile (old), exile (rare), post-exile (new)).
Who wrote Obadiah?

Obadiah wrote **Obadiah** (we think). But very few think that the Obadiah mentioned here is one of the same Obadias mentioned earlier in the Old Testament. Possible? Yes. Likely? Not really.

What is a prophet? (Source: Terry Brown)

- a **mouthpiece** who proclaimed the message of God
- a person who called Israel back to the Law
- someone who saw the check engine light and delivered a **message**

How was that message fulfilled? (Source: Terry Brown)

- **immediate** fulfillment
- **future** fulfillment
Putting it all together (source: Mark Martin)
What is Obadiah about?

Rather than me telling you what Obadiah is about, let's just read Obadiah.

1 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”):

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

3 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?’

4 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.

5 “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?

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

7 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.

8 “Will I not in that day,” says the Lord,
“Even destroy the wise men from Edom,
And understanding from the mountains of Esau?

9 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.
10 “For violence against your brother Jacob,
Shame shall cover you,
And you shall be cut off forever.

11 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.

12 “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.

13 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.

14 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.

15 “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.

16 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.

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

18 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.

19 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.
20 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.
21 Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion
To judge the mountains of Esau,
And the kingdom shall be the LORD’s.

Even though it took us five minutes to read, it’s important to note that Obadiah is the shortest of all of the Old Testament books.

But big things come in small packages.

What is our schedule?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/14/2018</td>
<td>Obadiah 1:1-9: The Coming Judgement on Edom</td>
<td>Jim Fleming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/21/2018</td>
<td>Obadiah 1:10-16: Edom Mistreated His Brother</td>
<td>Jim Fleming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/28/2018</td>
<td>Obadiah 1:17-21: Israel’s Final Triumph</td>
<td>Jim Fleming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part 2: The Coming Judgment on Edom (Obadiah 1:1-9)

Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Read: The Coming Judgment on Edom (1:1-9)

Since we’ve already read all of Obadiah, we won’t read this section again now.

Explain: The Coming Judgment on Edom (1:1-9)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let’s ask some.

Are there any literary/structural observations?

Obadiah 1a begins with a statement of what’s coming. And Obadiah 1b-9 are prophecies from Obadiah against Edom—and it’s five stanzas are all poetry.
Additionally, Obadiah was a skilled writer. He uses the various devices of parallelism, but also a capacity for imagery, rhetorical questions, irony, and repetition (The Minor Prophets, McComiskey, 503).

**What do the words mean?**

The easiest way to answer this question is to go to an interlinear and see some definitions. Here's the one I use: [studylight.org/isb](http://studylight.org/isb).

An interlinear is just a view of the text with a different language above or below. This is what Obadiah 1:1 looks like:

**Obadiah 1:1**

KJV – The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith (8804) the Lord GOD concerning Edom: We have heard (8804) a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent (8795) among the heathen, Arise (8798) ye, and let us rise up (8799) against her in battle.

BHS – חָזון אֲבוֹדָיָה בֵּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדום: נִשְׁמַע שָׁמְעָה מִלֹא יְהוָה אֲבֹדָיָה מֵאֲרָב מִשְׁמַע אֶלְּאָכֵל יִרְצֹּ֣וּ, וַׁעֲבֹדַ֑ו נַעֲבֹדְתָּ֖ם אֲלֵיהֶ֑ם.

Clicking on one of the Hebrew words results in something like this:

| # 2377 | תְוִיָּה | Definition [Brown-Driver-Brigg’s | Strong’s] |
|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| Transliteration | Origin | Strong’s Definition |
| cházôn | from (02372) | From H2372; a sight (mentally), that is, a dream, revelation, or oracle: - vision. |
| Phonetic |  |  |
| khaw-zone |  |  |
| Part of Speech | TWOT |  |
| Noun Masculine | 633a |  |

You can see the following:

- the Strong’s number
- what the word looks like in Hebrew
- a transliteration (turning the Hebrew letters into English letters)
- a pronunciation guide
- the part of speech
- a definition
- root word (origin)
- how many times its used in other translations
If you click on the words, you end up with something like this (~Amplified Bible):

1 The vision [dream, revelation, oracle, vision] of Obadiah [servant of Jehovah].

Thus says [qal perfect; says] the Lord [adonay] God [yehovih] concerning Edom [edom; red]
(We have heard [qal perfect; to hear attentively] a report [something heard, an announcement doctrine, fame, mention, news, report, rumor, tidings] from the Lord [yehovah; the self-existent or eternal],
And a messenger [hinge, throe, herald, errand doer, ambassador, messenger, pain, pang, sorrow] has been sent [pual perfect; send away, for, or out] among the nations [foreign nation, Gentile, troop of animals, flight of locusts, heathen, people], saying,
“Arise [qal imperative; rise], and let us rise [qal imperfect; rise] up against her for battle [battle, fight, war”):

Wait, who is Edom? Genesis 25 and Jacob (Israel) and Esau (Edom).

2 “Behold, I will make you small [diminutive (literally in quantity, size, or number, or figuratively in age or importance), least, lesser, little, small, young] among the nations [same word used in Obadiah 1:1; foreign nation, Gentile, troop of animals, flight of locusts, heathen, people];
You shall be greatly despised [disesteem, despise, disdain, contemptible, think to scorn, vile person].

3 The pride [arrogance, presumptuously, pride] of your heart has deceived [lead astray, delude, seduce, beguile, deceive (greatly/utterly)] you,
You who dwell [lodge, reside, abide, continue, habitate, inhabit, lay, place, remain, rest, set up] in the clefts [take refuge, rift, cleft] of the rock [craggy rock, fortress, ragged rock, stone, stronghold],
Whose habitation [sit down, dwell, remain, settle, marry] is high [altitude, elevated place, above, haughty, height, high, lofty, upward];
You who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down [descend, bring down] to the ground [firm, earth, land, field, ground]?’

4 Though you ascend [soar, be lofty, be haughty, mount up, be proud, raise up great height, upward] as high as the eagle,
And though you set your nest [nest, chamber, dwelling, room] among the stars,
From there I will bring you down [same word used in Obadiah 1:3; descend, bring down],” says the Lord [yehovah].

5 “If thieves [thieves, stealers] had come to you,
If robbers [to be burly, powerful, to ravage, dead, destroyer, oppress, robber, spoiler, utterly, lay waste] by night—
Oh, how you will be cut off [to be dumb or silent, fail or perish, destroy, cease, be cut down (off), destroy, be brought to silence, be undone, utterly]!—
Would they not have stolen [thieve, deceive, carry away, secretly bring, steal away, get by stealth] till they had enough?
If grape-gatherers [clip off, gather grapes, be isolated] had come to you, Would they not have left [swell up, be redundant, leave, be left, let, remain, remnant, reserve, the rest] some gleanings [gleanings, grapes]?

6 “Oh, how Esau [esav; hairy] shall be searched out [seek, conceal oneself, mask, change, make diligent search, disguise self, hide, search out—note the irony here of Esau being disguised when Jacob was the brother who used a disguise]!
How his hidden treasures [secret, treasure, hidden thing] shall be sought after [gush over, swell, desire earnestly, ask, cause, inquire, seek up, swell out, boil]!
7 All the men in your confederacy [compact, confederacy, covenant, league] Shall force you to the border [cord twisted, boundary, territory enclosed, border, bound, coast, landmark, limit, quarter, space];
The men at peace [shalom; well, happy, friendly, welfare, health, prosperity, peace] with you
Shall deceive [same word used in Obadiah 1:3; lead astray, delude, seduce, beguile, deceive (greatly/utterly)] you and prevail [be able, attain, endure, might, overcome, have power, prevail] against you.
Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap [turning aside from truth, plot, wound] for you.
No one is aware [intelligence, discretion, reason, skillfulness, understanding, wisdom] of it.

8 “Will I not in that day,” says the Lord [yehovah; the self-existent or eternal], “Even destroy [wander away, lose oneself, perish, break, destroy, fail, lose, perish, be undone, have no way to flee] the wise [wise, intelligent, skillful, artful, cunning, subtle] men from Edom [edom; red],
And understanding [same word used in Obadiah 1:7; intelligence, discretion, reason, skillfulness, understanding, wisdom] from the mountains of Esau?
9 Then your mighty men [powerful, warrior, tyrant, champion, chief, excel, giant, mighty man, mighty one, strong man, valiant man], O Teman [a southern region of the Edomites and the name of an Edomite], shall be dismayed [prostrate, break down (either by violence or by confusion and fear), abolish, affright, make afraid, amaze, beat down, discourage, cause to dismay, go down, scare, terrify],
To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau May be cut off [cut off, cut down, destroy, consume, covenant, be chewed, fail, hewn down, lose, perish] by slaughter [violent death, slaughter].
Are there any repeated words?
You/your (22), shall/will (12), men (4), Lord (4), Esau (3), heart (2), Edom (2), cut (2), bring (2), high (2), mountains (2), against (2), come (2), down (2), nations (2)

Apply (What is the point?)
1. God speaks
2. God watches
3. God responds

Personalize (What do we do with that?)
1. Listen carefully
2. Live circumspectly
3. Lament contritely

Next week: Edom Mistreated His Brother (1:10-16)

10 “For violence against your brother Jacob, 
Shame shall cover you, 
And you shall be cut off forever.
11 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.
12 “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.
13 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.
14 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.

15 “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.
16 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.

Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help
2. Read next week’s text (multiple times in multiple ways) (Obadiah 1:10-16)
3. Talk to someone about the text (fb.com/OurSundaySchool or in person)
4. Share (fb.com/OurSundaySchool) insights and questions by Thursday
5. Invite a member or non-member

Extra Credit

Watch: The Bible Project Video on Obadiah (youtube.com/watch?v=i4ogCrEoG5s)

Repent: for pride in your heart, family, church, and country

Resources

The Minor Prophets, McComiskey (1998)
The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah, Allen (1976)

Quotes & Observations

Darla Skinner: Obadiah . . . . well, it looks as if we are back to the wrath thing.
Tough times for Edom. In a parallel passage, I found this after all the wrath talk:
"Then they will know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 35:15)

Sherry Johnson: Genesis records the birth of Esau and Jacob. My question is why
was Esau's birthright not important to Esau (Edom)?