

Obadiah

The Book of Obadiah shows the outcome of the ancient feud between Edom and Israel. As descendants of Esau, [Genesis 23:19 to Genesis 27:45; Genesis 36:8] the Edomites were blood relatives of Israel. Like their father Esau, they were rugged, fierce and proud warriors living in what seemed to them the invincible mountain region south-east of the Dead Sea, including Petra.

Of all people, the Edomites should have rushed to aid their northern brothers.

Instead, they gloated over Israel's problems, captured by and delivered fugitives to the enemy. They even looted Israel's countryside.

Obadiah gave God's message to Edom because of their cowardice and pride. Together with their treachery towards their brothers in Israel they stood condemned and would be destroyed, [Obadiah 1:1-9].

All who are proud and powerful in any generation should not be over-confident in themselves, whether they are a nation, a corporation, a church, or a family.

Just as Edom was destroyed for her pride, so will anyone who lives in defiance of the Creator God.

God will also judge and fiercely punish all who harm His people.

The prophecy ends with a description of the "day of the Lord," when judgement will fall on all who have harmed God's people, [verses 15-21].

Today, God's people, His holy nation, is the true Christian Church, all who have trusted Jesus Christ for their salvation and given their lives to Him to use.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

These people have been born again, [Romans 6:3-8; John 3:3-8] are God's adopted children being prepared to live a holy life with a Holy God for eternity.

1 Peter 1:13-17 [New King James] *"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.' And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;"*

Now humbly living a life dedicated to the Creator God.

As you read Obadiah, catch a glimpse of what it means to be a created child of the eternal God, under His love and protection.

Any nation of individual people who mistreat true Christians who obey the Creator God will be punished, regardless how invincible they appear.

Similarly, we as individuals cannot allow ourselves to feel so comfortable with the wealth and security that we fail to help God's people, for God would consider this as sin as He did Edom.