

Read the book of Obadiah. Note the sins of Edom against Judah: **v.3, v10-11, v16**

We don't know the date (800's or 600's) but we know Judah was attacked and Edom didn't help.

God advises them, but it is more of a "you should not have done this" list: **v.12-14**

God will judge them, punish them, and restore blessings to Judah: **v.15, 19-21**

So, I found my notes on Obadiah from 14 years ago! I was 25! It is interesting to see how mid-20's me interpreted these stories and the types of application that was made. Here were the three points:

- 1) Do not let Pride be your Downfall (Proverb 16:18)
 - a. V3,16 – They felt like they were something, special, uniquely blessed.
 - b. Perhaps they felt like they had done it on their own.
 - c. They looked down on Judah – maybe thinking they got what they deserved.
 - d. Pride is dangerous. It is easy to compare to others and elevate oneself.
 - e. Jesus was "humble and lowly" – never looking down on others, but lifting them up.
- 2) Do not Mistreat God's People (v10-11)
 - a. Okay, we all know that. But what is interesting is HOW they did violence.
 - b. They did so by NOT HELPING (Seinfeld episode)
 - c. Because they felt "better" than them, they sat back and did nothing to help.
 - d. **I John 3:16-18** – John warns of this exact thing! We love by doing, we hate by not.
- 3) Do not Gloat over your Brother's Day (v12)
 - a. Brother or enemy, to take pleasure in another's pain is not righteous, ever.
 - b. **Prov. 24:17-18** – Even if it is an enemy, have compassion and honor God.
 - c. It is easy to be pleased when others get what is coming to them.
 - d. But God may see it differently, and decide we need what is coming to us.

Okay, maybe not the best application in the world, but I was a kid! And these things do still stand. But this time through, I want to layer something in and challenge you in a different way.

Title: **Obadiah: The 1,000 Year Rift.** Look at **1:17-18** – Jacob and Esau! Jacob was the nation of Judah (his grandson by name) and Edom was the descendant of Esau! Their relationship started 1,000 years early, with CONFLICT and issues from the day they were born! (**Gen. 25:23-26!**)

Then came division in the home with partiality: (**Gen. 25:28**).

In their youth, one sold his birthright to the other (**25:30-34**).

Then of course came the great deception of Isaac and that ended poorly (**27:41-42**).

So Jacob went away for 20 years, starting his own family. He returned but was frightened (**33:1-4**).

Though the reunion went pretty well, they settled in different areas and became two nations.

They were not one: they were two. And yes, the division continued: (**Num. 20:14-21** – 300 years later!)

And 500 years after that, as the older is forced to serve the younger: (**II Sam. 8:13-14** – by David's hand) 150 years later, there was a revolt: (**II Kings 8:20**) – And so on and so forth.

I like the read of the letter of Obadiah and the three points we made, but there is something more to say.; especially about DIVISION among families, among God's people, among churches. The conflict was 1,000 years old, and was somewhat made up way back then, but they became two nations, separated, even though living close by, and it affected generation after generation.

They considered service to one another as an insult, though it was God's will. They may not have been violent, but they wouldn't lift much of a finger to help – you stay over there and we'll stay over here. *Maybe we think fighting between us, or not talking for awhile, or starting another church, or having separate holiday dinner locations... that all of that is JUSTIFIED and we hope it is TEMPORARY. Often it is NEITHER.*

Would to God that his people, his offspring, like Jacob and Esau, and our offspring, the families we are raising – would not be like those two, so that years later our children will not be like those who got a letter from Obadiah. God was not honored. God was not pleased. May we move past the petty, change the stars and unite over division.

May we never ignore a brother in need, nor look down on them: but Love like God Loves us (**I Jn. 4:7-12, 20-21**).