

Worship Discussion and Reflection Questions

Sermon Series: Ancient Voices for Unsettled Times

Sermon: Obadiah - the Good News about Judgment

Scripture: Obadiah 1:1-4, 10-15, 21

¹ The vision of Obadiah.

Edom Will Be Humbled

Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom:

We have heard a report from the Lord,
and a messenger has been sent among the nations:

“Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!”

² Behold, I will make you small among the nations;
you shall be utterly despised.^[a]

³ The pride of your heart has deceived you,
you who live in the clefts of the rock,^[b]
in your lofty dwelling,

who say in your heart,

“Who will bring me down to the ground?”

⁴ Though you soar aloft like the eagle,
though your nest is set among the stars,
from there I will bring you down,
declares the Lord.

¹⁰ Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob,
shame shall cover you,
and you shall be cut off forever.

¹¹ On the day that you stood aloof,
on the day that strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were like one of them.

¹² But do not gloat over the day of your brother
in the day of his misfortune;
do not rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their ruin;
do not boast^[a]
in the day of distress.

¹³ Do not enter the gate of my people
in the day of their calamity;
do not gloat over his disaster
in the day of his calamity;
do not loot his wealth
in the day of his calamity.

¹⁴ Do not stand at the crossroads
to cut off his fugitives;
do not hand over his survivors
in the day of distress.

The Day of the Lord Is Near

¹⁵ For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations.

As you have done, it shall be done to you;
your deeds shall return on your own head.

²¹ Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion
to rule Mount Esau,
and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

Questions:

1. What divisions with family or close friends have you experienced? What could you do to help be reconciled?
2. How do you react to hearing that "judgment day is coming!"? Do you believe it? Are you afraid of it? Are you yearning for it? Why?
3. How does looking at judgment from the perspective of the underdog (like exiled Israel in our text today) change your reaction to God's judgment? Can it ever be good news?
4. This short book ends with the promise that ultimately God will rule over all and His Kingdom will be in charge. How does that make you feel? How are you "working for God's kingdom" today in your everyday life?

Guided Prayer:

Lord-- we are surrounded by so much hurt and anger. So much rage and revenge. Open our eyes to how we can be your ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-21) in our family, our neighborhood, our community and your world. Thank you for the promise that you will put all things right. Help us to trust in your faithfulness and justice that you will do so. Enable us to break the cycle of revenge and hitting back in our own lives and make us into your peacemakers.

Help us to live and work for your kingdom and your rule to show up in our lives—today and forever!
In Jesus' name we ask it-- Amen.