

Obadiah and Jonah

Obadiah - The Mighty Savior

Oba: 21 The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD'S.

Introduction:

The people of Edom are descended from Esau, just as the Israelites are descendants of Jacob. Esau and Jacob were twins. Esau was the elder brother and the rightful heir of the promises God made to his father Isaac and his grandfather Abraham. However, Esau never took God seriously. Jacob, on the other hand, was determined to supplant Esau, and succeeded in cheating him of his inheritance. The story of Esau and Jacob is told in Genesis 25–36.

Centuries later, when the Israelites asked Edom's permission to use the 'King's Highway' (the most direct route from Egypt to Canaan), they were refused. A long running enmity was established between Israel and Edom, which features frequently in the Old Testament story.

When the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, the Edomites rejoiced and helped the enemy instead of helping their relatives (Gen 25:21-26; Ps 137:7-9).

It was a repetition of the ancient conflict between Esau and Jacob, which symbolizes the battle between the flesh and the Spirit.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

What were the sins of Edom?

Pride (1-4); They were also guilty of looting (13), [and God said they would be looted (5-7)]. They were violent (10) and indifferent (11), and they rejoiced at the plight of the Jews (12; Pr 24:17-18);

Christ is seen as:

The Servant (Phil 2:7) Obadiah's name means "servant of Jehovah."

Phil 2:5-7 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

The Worshiper of Jehovah, Obadiah's name also means "Worshiper of Yahweh."

Heb 2:11-12 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE."

Interestingly Jesus himself ties these two words together in Mt 4:10 "You shall worship the Lord your God only and only Him shall thou serve". Worship and service go hand in hand.

The Executor of Divine retribution (2Th 1:6-10)

2Thes 1:7-8 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Jonah – The Forgiving God or The Resurrected One

Jehovah is “a loving and merciful God, always patient, always kind,” even to those least deserving of his grace and even to a stubborn prophet.

Summary:

God sent Jonah to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, to a people despised by the Jews. Jonah would rather Nineveh be destroyed than that the city have an opportunity to repent and be spared. The Assyrians were a cruel people who showed no mercy to their enemies, and Jonah wanted them out of the way.

The book emphasizes God’s grace both to Nineveh and to Jonah. Though Nineveh was a wicked city, God gave the inhabitants opportunity to be spared. Though Jonah was a rebellious servant, God forgave him, used him, and tenderly sought to help him overcome his anger.

The main character in this book is neither the prophet nor the great fish but God, who is mentioned thirty-eight times.

Outline:

Chapter 1 rebellion: we see Jonah fleeing from the presence of Lord, going down to Joppa, down into the ship, and finally down into the belly of the fish which God had prepared.

Chapter 2 repentance: Jonah prays to God and is delivered from the fish.

Chapter 3 restoration: Jonah finally delivers God's message to Nineveh and the whole city repents,

Chapter 4—resentment: Jonah becomes angry when God does not fulfilled his prophecy to destroy Nineveh. He is chastened by the Lord for his attitude.

Christ is seen as:

Jonah was a type of Christ. When Jonah was in the big fish for three days and nights and then spit up onto dry land, that was a picture of Christ being in the earth for three days and nights and then resurrecting. (Mt 12:38-41)

After Jonah was typically resurrected from the belly of the fish he went to the Gentiles. After Jesus was raised from the dead He went, through His apostles, to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Comparisons and contrasts of Jesus to Jonah:

They were both prophets to Gentiles.

Jonah’s mission was to call the Assyrians of Nineveh to repentance (Jon 1:2).

Jesus came to call all sinners, Jews and Gentiles to repentance (Mt 28:18-20)

Jonah initially disobeyed God’s order and went to Nineveh reluctantly (Jon 1:3).

Jesus willingly answered God’s calling and submitted to His will (Lk 22:42)

Jonah sacrificed himself to save his shipmates (Jon 1:12),

Jesus sacrificed himself to save the world (Mk 10:45)

Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish because of his sin (Jon 1:17).

Jesus spent three days and three nights in a tomb because of our sin (Lk 24:46).

Jonah came out from the belly of the fish (Jon 2:11).

Jesus resurrected from death and walked out of the tomb (Mark 16:6)

Jonah announced the destruction of Nineveh would take place in forty days (Jon 3:4).

Jesus taught for forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3)

Jonah despised God’s grace towards sinners and was willing to die because of it (Jon 4:1-3),

Jesus showed mercy towards sinners and died to save them (Jn 3:16)