

# Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**THOUGH THOU EXALT THYSELF AS THE EAGLE...**

**I BRING THEE DOWN, SAITH THE LORD**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 1, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **OBADIAH 1:4-9**

**Obadiah 1:4**, Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a. Obadiah is one of the four prophets of whom we know very little about.
- b. The other three are Habakkuk, Haggai and Malachi.
- c. All of these prophets were servants of God regardless of their identity.
- d. We do know Obadiah was the author although there has been some question among Bible scholars about the authenticity of this book.
- e. This book is one of the greatest in all of the Word of God.
- f. I can understand from studying this book why men want to eliminate it from the canon of Scriptures. It so much parallels what is happening in America that I will use it and make some appropriate applications.
- g. In no uncertain terms, this book deals with pride, a subject that men do not like to deal with. **Psalms 10:4**, The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. **Proverbs 11:2**, When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. **Proverbs 14:3**, In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.
- h. Obadiah was written during one of the invasions of Jerusalem.
- i. Although I cannot be dogmatic as to when this book was written, it is possible it was written between 848 -840 BC.
- j. This is the time the city was destroyed by the Philistines and the Arabians.
- k. If this be the date, then **2 Kings 8:16-26** talks about it and fixes the time of the reign of Jehoram and the bloody Athaliah. **2 Kings 8:26-28**, Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he

reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel. **27:** And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the Lord, as did the house of Ahab: for he was the son in law of the house of Ahab. **28:** And he went with Joram the son of Ahab to the war against Hazael king of Syria in Ramoth-gilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.

- l. If it was a later date, it was possibly during the reign of Jehoshaphat.
- m. **2 Chronicles 17:7** mentions a man named Obadiah. *Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Ben-hail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.*
- n. We cannot be sure this is the same man who wrote the Scriptures because this seems to have been a common name during that time.
- o. Regardless of when it was written, and how difficult it is to pin point an actual date, we do know that it is one of the shortest books in the Old Testament; it is only 21 verses, but it is indeed the Word of God. Very potent and very powerful. It reveals a vital truth with respect to America, but like Edom America is not in the listening mode. It proves the fact when we error with respect to the scriptures, each decision leads us into greater spiritual darkness.
- p. We also know Obadiah was a prophet of God whom the Lord used to take the opportunity to condemn Edom for sins against both Israel and God.
- q. The Edomites are descendants of Esau.
- r. We eluded to this in the Introduction and we will look further into their heritage during the course of this message.
- s. Obadiah was stern, had a very clear-cut message of judgment for the Edomites, and left no stones unturned. If God does not judge America with regard to recent moral decision He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.
- t. He was possible a contemporary of Jeremiah.
- u. The whole question of this seems to hinge on **verse 11**. *In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.*
- v. There are several other themes that manifest themselves in these 21 verses.
  - 1. God will overcome in our behalf if we will stay true to Him.
  - 2. Unlike Edom, we must be willing to help others in times of need.
  - 3. Like a loving father, God, at times may need to chastise His children.
  - 4. Pride is sin. **Psalms 59:12**, *For the sin of their mouth and the words of*

*their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.*

5. The believer has nothing to be proud of except Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.
  6. We do not enter into the salvation process in any way. We must remember it is a transaction between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **1 John 5:7**, *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*
  7. The talk of loving all of mankind can be easy, but we need God's help to love the man next door. **1 John 3:14**, *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. **1 John 3:16**, *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**
- w. With that background let us proceed with an introduction.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Please refer to the July 1, 2018 Morning Message for the Introduction.

## 3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- d. **Though thou exalt thyself as an eagle... I bring thee down saith the Lord.**
  1. **Obadiah 1:4**, **Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle,** *and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.*
  2. In Scripture, the eagle has always represented deity.
  3. The eagle is the one who soars above all the other birds of the air.
  4. We understand the eagle represents the very best. It is for this reason that our founding Father's set this nation on the right course by choosing the eagle as our mantra.
  5. How many people today are attempting to run their lives without God? In America we are attempting to remove every landmark that bears testimony that there IS a God. I find it ironic that we do not sing the last stanza from our National anthem which contains the words: "Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"
  6. They feel there is no need for God in their program and as a result, they are behind the wheel and think they are in the driver's seat.
  7. We have embraced the godless theory of evolution, same sex marriage and the humanistic approach to life is the order of the day.

8. It causes men and women to think they are high above God. **Romans 12:16**, Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
9. The Bible says in **Genesis 1:27**, *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*
10. There is no such thing as the theory of evolution. **Genesis 2:7**, *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*
11. God indeed created us in His image.
12. We are created on a higher plane from the animals.
13. Therefore, we could never have evolved from any animal.
14. Of course, men and women have stooped to a very low level in our society. Even the animal world understands the difference between male and female.
15. We do not find animals getting drunk, beating their wives, shooting their children, murdering mankind, or practicing homosexuality.
16. Only man has allowed himself to try to live above God. Modern man is totally out of control.
17. Remember God said to the Edomites, "Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord."

**e. How are the things of Esau searched out!**

1. **Obadiah 1:6**, How are the things of Esau searched out! *how are his hidden things sought up!*
2. This seems to be the key verse of this book.
3. When we analyze Esau, we know he was the father of the Edomites.
4. Under the microscope God says look at this man I hated him; why? Because of his pride of life.
5. Esau turned his back on God and declared his ability to live without God.
6. This is the pride of life!
7. We understand very clearly why Esau was willing to trade his birthright.
8. **It meant nothing to him; that he would be priest of the family or have a relationship with God.** **Romans 8:8**, *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

9. There are men and women today who continue to live in that fashion.
10. They think they can exalt themselves above the Throne of God.
11. God gives us a warning that judgment has been committed to the Son and one of these days Jesus Christ will be King of kings and Lord of lords Jesus will reveal His wrath. **John 5:22**, *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: We will either bow to Him in this life for salvation or in the life to come for judgment. **Philippians 2:10**, That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **Romans 14:11**, For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*

**f. The men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee.**

1. **Obadiah 1:7**, *All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: **the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee**, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.*
2. The Edomites were a nation the enemies would pass by. Likewise, America at one point was highly respected around the world and certainly served as a role model for other nations. America had many friends and was considered untouchable with respect to education, displaying a strong military presence. A nation willing to send Christian Missionaries to foreign lands, friendly, gracious and kind. Question, where are we today?
3. They could not be bothered with them because it was not safe to rock this particular group of people.
4. Nebuchadnezzar was able to get spies inside the city and through them he was able to take the city.
5. Just as God used Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Jerusalem, He also used him to reach in and take the nation of Edom.
6. That nation was descendants of Esau.
7. They had become a nation that God had to judge.
8. As we make application to the church and to our nation, the phrase, *"the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee"* this is just like pride and gossip. Today you are a part of the gossip circle, tomorrow you are absent, and the gossip circle is about you. **BEWARE!**

**g. The Lord, even destroyed the wise men out of Edom.**

1. **Obadiah 1:8**, *Shall I not in that day, saith the Lord, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?*
2. Edom was a nation protected in the vastness of rocky mountains.
3. This is also known as the beautiful city of Petra.
4. They had developed earthly wisdom, learning and superstition.
5. Petra was a pagan center where there were many pillars of cults.
6. Edom was famous for their worldly wisdom.
7. Job's friend Eliphaz was a Temanite. **Job 4:1**, *Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,*
8. People traveled from afar to hear the wisdom of the wise men of that city. **Jeremiah 49:7**, *Concerning Edom, thus saith the Lord of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?*
9. God says He would "*destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?*"

**h. O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.**

1. **Obadiah 1:9**, *And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.*
2. When we look at the Temanite's we see that Teman was the name of the grandson of Esau.
3. It is located in the southern portion of Edom.
4. The Temanite were noted for their courage.
5. What caused all of this to happen; **the pride of life is a great sin.**
6. **Pride is an attitude that cannot be concealed very long.**
7. I have seen young men called to the ministry by God and immediately they want to elevate themselves above someone else.
8. We have the appropriate theme at Chesswood. "Where everybody is Somebody." We must guard it and live by it lest we be labeled hypocrites.
9. Although Esau and Jacob were twin brothers and not identical, they grew up in the same family and they had the same struggles in life.
10. They both became great nations, Israel whom God has used mightily, and Esau and the Edomites whom God is judging.
11. **Instead of defending Israel in the dark hours of the Babylonian**

captivity, Edom became cheerleaders and was happy to see their brother fall. Likewise, in America the most severe threat comes from the "Lone Wolf" that grew up on American soil, educated through the American system, and now becomes an enemy of America.

12. **Deuteronomy 23:7**, *Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land.*
13. Israel's ties with the Edomites were greater because they were blood relatives.
14. God said He hated them, however, we see the Edomites were manifested by hatred and bitterness toward Israel throughout the entire length of history.
15. We must guard against this type of attitude in our local church.
16. We must all pull together; we must all speak the same thing. **1 Corinthians 1:10**, *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* **Philippians 2:5**, *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*
17. **God has indeed enriched us with an important ministry of getting the Word of God out.**
18. It is not about us; it is about the mission He has given us.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend, are you truly saved today?
- b. Do you know Jesus as your personal Saviour?
- c. If you do not know Him, today is the day of Salvation.
- d. Come to the side of the Living Saviour and be saved.
- e. **Revelation 3:20**, *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*
- f. Christ is ready, willing and able to save to the uttermost those who come to God by Him. **Hebrews 7:25**, *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*
- g. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- h. **Romans 3:11**, *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*
- i. **Isaiah 64:6**, *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our*

*iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

- j. Do not buy into the theory that eventually all people will be saved, it is only those who accept the record that God has given of His Son.
- k. **1 John 5:11-12**, *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*
- l. Would you please stand?

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