



The Book of Daniel: No Compromise

Obadiah

Pastor Brad Wood

The book of Obadiah, though the shortest in the Old Testament with only 21 verses, carries a profound message about pride, judgment, and God's unwavering faithfulness to His covenant people.

This prophecy against Edom—the descendants of Esau—reveals how pride deceives us into believing we're secure in our own strength, wisdom, or alliances. The Edomites boasted in their impregnable city of Petra, their renowned wise men, and their political confederacies, yet God declared He would bring them down completely.

Their cardinal sin wasn't just pride, but how that pride manifested in perpetual hatred toward their brothers, the Israelites. When Jerusalem fell to Babylon, Edom didn't just stand by—they rejoiced, collaborated with the enemy, plundered their brothers, and even killed those trying to escape. God's response was clear: as you have done, it shall be done to you.

What makes this message so relevant for us today is the contrast between Edom's complete destruction and Israel's promised restoration. Despite Israel's repeated unfaithfulness and idolatry, God never abandoned His covenant love. This same unconditional, covenant-keeping love is now extended to us through Christ, who came to Mount Zion as the ultimate Savior. We face the same choice the Edomites did: will we stand in our own pride and self-sufficiency, or will we humble ourselves and receive God's redemptive love?

The historical fulfillment of Obadiah's prophecy—the complete disappearance of the Edomites from history while Israel remains—should strengthen our faith in God's yet-to-be-fulfilled promises.

Key Takeaways:

Pride deceives us into thinking we are secure in our own strength, wisdom, or alliances—but God will bring down the proud.

God takes seriously how we treat people, especially when we stand by, rejoice at their suffering, or take advantage of their weakness.

God's judgment is certain for those who persist in rebellion, but His love is unfailing for those who are His covenant people.

We are like Gomer—repeatedly drawn back to our old life—yet God loves us enough to redeem us and make us His bride.

God keeps His promises—just as the prophecies against Edom were fulfilled and Israel was restored, we can trust God's future promises to us.

5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

Day 1: The Pride That Deceives

Reading: Obadiah 1:1-4; Proverbs 16:18

Devotional: The Edomites trusted in their impregnable fortress of Petra, believing their natural defenses made them invincible. Yet God declared, "From there I will bring you down." Pride deceives us into thinking we're self-sufficient, that our achievements, resources, or security systems make us untouchable. But pride always precedes a fall. The very things we boast in—our careers, relationships, abilities, or possessions—can become idols that distance us from God. Today, examine your heart. What are you trusting in besides God? Where has pride taken root? True security is found only in humble dependence on the Lord. Surrender your false fortresses and find your refuge in Him alone.

Day 2: The Consequences of Standing By

Reading: Obadiah 1:10-14; James 4:17

Devotional: Edom's gravest sin wasn't just violence against Israel—it was standing by and doing nothing when their brother was in distress. They watched, rejoiced, and even collaborated with the enemy. James reminds us that knowing the right thing to do and not doing it is sin. How often do we stand on the sidelines when someone needs help? When a brother or sister is struggling, do we turn away, gossip, or worse—secretly rejoice in their downfall? God calls us to active compassion. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you've been a passive bystander. Reach out to someone in need. Extend mercy instead of judgment. Be the hands and feet of Christ to those experiencing their own "day of distress."

Day 3: God's Covenant-Keeping Love

Reading: Hosea 3:1-5; Romans 5:6-8

Devotional: Hosea's marriage to Gomer paints a vivid picture of God's relentless love. Despite her repeated unfaithfulness, Hosea redeemed her from slavery—just as God redeems us. We are all like Gomer, drawn back to old patterns, chasing empty pleasures, enslaving ourselves to sin. Yet God pursues us with unconditional love. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He paid the ultimate price to buy us back from slavery. This isn't a love we earned or deserved; it's pure grace. Today, meditate on the depth of God's commitment to you. Let His faithful love anchor your soul and inspire you to remain faithful to Him, no longer running back to empty cisterns but staying close to the Living Water.

Day 4: From Judgement to Restoration

Reading: Obadiah 1:15-17; Ephesians 2:1-7

Devotional: God's judgment on Edom was complete and final, but His judgment on Israel was temporary, leading to restoration. This contrast reveals God's heart: justice for the unrepentant, but redemption for those who return to Him. We were once "dead in trespasses and sins," deserving judgment like Edom. But God, rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ! When we are in Him, our past doesn't define our future. On Mount Zion, the Savior came—not to condemn but to save. Today, thank God for His transforming grace. If you're struggling with guilt or shame, remember: there is deliverance on Mount Zion. God doesn't just forgive; He restores, raises up, and seats you in heavenly places with Christ.

Day 5: The Kingdom Belongs to the Lord

Reading: Obadiah 1:21; Revelation 11:15-17

Devotional: Obadiah closes with a powerful declaration: "The kingdom shall be the LORD's." Despite Edom's pride, Israel's failures, and the chaos of nations, God's sovereign plan prevails. This same promise echoes in Revelation when loud voices proclaim, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ." Whatever turmoil you face today—personal struggles, global uncertainty, or spiritual battles—remember who ultimately reigns. Jesus is King, and His kingdom is eternal. Your circumstances don't determine the outcome; God's purposes do. Today, surrender control. Trust that the One who kept His promises to Israel will keep His promises to you. Live with confidence, knowing the kingdom belongs to the Lord.

Practical Applications:

Choose one of the following to put into practice this week:

1. **Humility Check:** Identify one area where you've been prideful. Confess it to God and to one trusted person. Ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable.
 2. **Active Compassion:** Look for someone who is going through difficulty. Instead of standing by, take one concrete action to help them this week.
 3. **Gratitude for Redemption:** Write out your "Gomer story"—a time when you trampled on Christ's love...even as a believer. Did you treat the redeeming love of God as irrelevant? Or did you totally walk away? Share it with someone who needs to hear about God's faithful, redeeming love.
 4. **Examine Your Heart:** When you hear about someone else's failure or struggle this week, pause and check your heart. Are you secretly glad? Pray immediately for compassion and for that person's restoration or sustenance.
 5. **Study God's Faithfulness:** Read through one of the other prophecies against Edom (Jeremiah 49, Ezekiel 35, Isaiah 34, or Amos 1:11-12) and journal about what it teaches you about God's character.
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Prayer Focus for this week:

- **Confession:** Ask God to reveal areas of pride in your life and to give you a humble heart.
 - **Compassion:** Pray for sensitivity to others' suffering and courage to help rather than stand by.
 - **Gratitude:** Thank God for His covenant-keeping love and for redeeming us when we were enslaved to sin.
 - **Faith:** Ask for trust in God's promises, both fulfilled and yet to come.
 - **Transformation:** Pray that you would be changed more and more into Christ's image.
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Additional Study, Choose at least one for this week:

- Read the entire book of Hosea (especially chapters 1-3) to see the full picture of God's redeeming love.
- Research Petra and the Nabateans to better understand the historical fulfillment of Obadiah's prophecy.
- Study Romans 7:14-25 where Paul discusses the struggle with sin that dwells in us.

Looking Ahead: Next week, we continue our journey through Daniel, moving into the prophetic sections of the book, picking up in Chapter 7. Come prepared to explore God's sovereign plan for history and how it gives us hope today.

Closing Thought: "The Savior shall come to Mount Zion...and the kingdom shall be the Lord's" (Obadiah 1:21). He came. He redeemed us. Now we live as His beloved bride, not because we deserved it, but because of His unfailing love.

Small Group Guide: Judgement and Redemption

Discussion Questions:

- How does the account of Edom's pride and downfall challenge us to examine areas of self-sufficiency and arrogance in our own lives?
- In what ways do we sometimes stand by and do nothing when our brothers and sisters in Christ face difficulty, and how can we actively choose to help instead?
- What does the complete fulfillment of God's prophecy against Edom teach us about the certainty of His promises, both in judgment and in blessing?
- How does the parallel between Hosea's redemption of Gomer and Christ's redemption of us deepen your understanding of God's covenant-keeping love?

- The Edomites rejoiced at Israel's misfortune despite being family. When have you struggled with jealousy or secret delight toward other believers' misfortune? Have you repented of that?
- What does it mean that even when we continually return to our old patterns of sin, God still chooses to love us and call us back to Himself?
- How does understanding the historical fulfillment of obscure prophecies like Obadiah's strengthen your faith in the yet-to-be-fulfilled prophecies in Scripture?
- In what ways might we be building our security on things like the Edomites did with their fortifications, wisdom, and alliances rather than on God alone?
- What are practical ways that we can live as part of God's kingdom now, grafted into the family of Abraham through faith in Christ?
- How should the warning that pride deceives us affect the way we evaluate our spiritual condition and our need for God's grace?

Further Discussion Questions:

- Who were the Edomites, and what was their relationship to Israel? How does understanding this family connection make Edom's actions more significant?
- What were the specific sins of Edom listed in Obadiah? (See verses 10-14.)
- What were the sources of Edom's pride? How did each one ultimately fail them?
 - Natural fortifications (Petra)
 - Wisdom and wise men
 - Political alliances
- Pastor Brad said, "Pride is very deceptive. It makes us think things about ourselves in ways that simply are not true and causes us to see others in the light of that deception." What are some modern examples of how pride deceives us today? Do you have any personal examples?

- God's judgment on Edom was complete and permanent, while His judgment on Israel was temporary and redemptive. What does this tell us about the difference between being God's covenant people and being His enemies?
- Read Obadiah verse 15: "As you have done, it shall be done for you." How does this principle of divine justice work throughout Scripture? Where do we see mercy interrupting this principle?
- In his sermon, Pastor Brad connected Obadiah's prophecy with the account of Hosea and Gomer. How does Hosea's redemption of his unfaithful wife illustrate God's relationship with us?
- The Edomites "stood on the other side" when their brothers were in trouble. When have you been tempted to stand by and do nothing when someone needed help? What held you back?
- Edom rejoiced at Israel's misfortune. How do we sometimes subtly rejoice when others fail or struggle? What does this reveal about our hearts?
- Pastor Brad emphasized God's "unconditional, forgiving, and covenant-keeping love." Share a time when you experienced God's faithfulness despite your own unfaithfulness.
- Pride was Edom's cardinal sin. What areas of your life might be vulnerable to pride right now?
- The sermon ended with the image of being "bought back" like Gomer. How does viewing yourself as redeemed from slavery change how you live day-to-day?

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