

Today I want to continue our series on the Minor Prophets we have titled: "Small Talk"

Remember what we said last week. Just because something is small doesn't mean it is unimportant. Very true in life...ALSO very true in understanding our bibles. This is the intro I wrote for our new series: *Small Talk: Big things often come in small packages! The Minor Prophets of the Old Testament are not called minor because they are unimportant or insignificant. They are called minor simply because they are short in length! Compared to the 66 chapters of Isaiah or the 52 chapters of Jeremiah, Obadiah's single chapter and Jonah's 4 chapters almost disappear. But appearances are deceptive. While they are small in size the message they convey is incredibly important.*

Today we want to look at the SMALLEST book in the OT! Obadiah! 1 Chapter with 21 verses! POWERFUL MSG

1. Historical Setting of Obadiah:

- Chronologically the first of the Minor Prophets: (Lots of discussion, dated by historical events) 4
- Preexilic: OF the Southern Kingdom: (Judah) TO Edom (1 of 3 Prophets to other countries)
CHART

2. Quick BACKGROUND Facts About Obadiah That Give Us Perspective!

Since he is SO unfamiliar to us, it will help us understand what God is saying if we have some BACKGROUND

- The Edomites are the descendants of Isaac, the son of Abraham.
Gen 25:19-24; 29-34 Two Sons: Jacob and Esau...
Two Nations...One will serve the other...Older despised and sold his birthright!
- Settled as IMMEDIATE neighbors to the nation of Judah...Always animosity: (Bad Blood)
- Protected by God when the Israelites were coming from Egypt to take the promised land
Deut 2:2-6
- Rejected the Israelites request to pass through their land on journey to Promised Land!
Numbers 20:14-21
- Generational antagonism toward Israel for entire time of existence (Skirmishes, Battles, Back and Forth)
- Celebrated when other nations attacked Israel, refused to help, stood on sidelines and gloated
- Sometimes joined in with the attacks of other nations, refused to help survivors, Took "leftovers"!!!
- They are the ONLY nation that was NOT offered the opportunity of repentance! Obed 1:18
Not like Nineveh (*Jonah went to them...they repented and God stopped the judgment!*)
What God said to them was all about judgment...end result was they disappeared!

3. The Two-Fold Message of Obadiah:

Once you understand the history and background facts of Obadiah, the Message of the prophet is very simple. This is a contrast and comparison of the two nations that came from Jacob! One that Endured, One that Failed! You have to understand...there is a constant, generational struggle that began in the womb...and NEVER ended!

- A Kingdom That Fails: Edom Vs 1-18
6 Key Sins That Led To Judgment of Edom
 1. Did not let the Israelites pass when they were going to promised land Num 20:14-21
 2. Took advantage of Israelites when they were "down" Vs 10 "Violence"
 3. Did not come to the aid of Israelites when they were attacked by other nations vs 11 Aloof/No Aid
 4. Gloated over the Israelites misfortunes. Vs 12 Gloat
 5. Plunder the city after invaders had left Vs 13 Seize wealth
 6. Attack and kill survivors after Israelites defeat by others Vs 14
- A Kingdom That Endures: Israel Vs 10-21
God's Promise of Redemption and Restoration

This is almost and afterthought...because the prophecy is to the Edomites, but God at the end reminds the nation of Judah, though you will be disciplined, ultimately you WILL possess the Promised Land

 1. Jacob will possess his inheritance! Vs 17
 2. The nation of Israel/Judah will own all of the promised land! Vs 18-19
 3. The Promised Kingdom will know and serve the Lord Vs 21

4. Lessons From Obadiah For Us Today.

Remember what we said about learning from those that have gone before us last week.

1 Cor 10:11-13

"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

4 Lessons For Today From Obadiah

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Lesson #1: Pride Goes Before Destruction: Never Allow Yourself To Become Proud Of Your Place In Christ

Prov 16:18-19 Could have been WRITTEN for Esau!

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to live humbly with the poor than to share plunder with the proud!"

Illus: Edomites thought they were so well protected they could never be defeated!

Vs 3-4 Live in Rocks, Home on the heights, Soar with the Eagles

Petra Slides! One of the wonders of the world....

Like we said last week. Never Assume That Because You Are A Child Of God You Are Exempt From Discipline! Sometimes we become so familiar with God, so accustomed to His grace, so used to His forgiveness that we begin to take it for granted. That's what happened to Israel. God has protected them, blessed them, walked with them, provided for them, loved them, forgiven them...SO MANY TIMES...EXPECT IT...TREAT HIM W CONTEMPT

God promised Esau a nation as his inheritance. And he received it! Edomites

But, because he and his descendants did not honor God, and were constant adversaries of Israel, ultimately lost if we aren't careful we can end up like the prideful pharisee in the temple.

Illus: Luke 18:9-13 "I'm not like HIM!" "God have mercy upon ME...A sinner!"

Lesson #2: Don't Stand Silently On The Sidelines When You Can Make A Spiritual Difference.

This is an important lesson for us today in our culture. We HAVE to find the right way to speak prophetically to our culture. There is so much evil that is taking over...and I don't speak in general terms...that we as faithful followers of Jesus are going to have to speak truth to our world.

We have to find a way to speak truth without judgment...love without compromise and support without enablement. Jesus was able to do it...and do so in a way that those without a relationship with Him or the Father still loved Him and wanted to be around Him.

Applic: Listen, I KNOW it is culturally and relationally dangerous. But standing silently on the sidelines is soon no longer going to be an option! Just last week my daughter called me and said Dad, PRAY for me! "I'm leading worship, and the Pastor is going to speak on transgender issues and other topics...and I KNOW it might be an issue! Pray I will be able to be like Jesus...but at the same time stand for truth!

Lesson #3: Choose To Forgive!

Learn from Edom what happens when you don't! Not only was Esau angry...His descendants for generations! Don't miss this part...it is so important. When Esau instilled animosity into the hearts of his children...destroyed them! Because they carried that for generations...They envied, desired, stood and watched, gloated

But at the end of the day...EDOM was the one that was destroyed...by their own actions...COST EVERYTHING If you are here today...and you have been hurt, taken advantage of, caused to suffer: LISTEN: FORGIVE! If you don't do that...the bitterness, and the anger and the pain...will destroy YOU...and YOUR CHILDREN! That's part of what the bible means when it talks about the sins of the fathers being visited upon their children! They are watching & learning from you...Going to be LIKE YOU! Don't gift them anger, bitterness, unforgiveness
Illus: Hatred and bitterness is like drinking poison and hoping the other person dies! DESTROYS YOU: Children

Lesson #4: Remember, God ALWAYS Keeps His Word!

When God speaks...He does what He said! He doesn't always do it in the time frame we want, or the way we want

- Edom: Was completely destroyed: The language of the text is present as accomplished fact:
Vs 18, Set on fire and destroyed!
- Judah: Was restored and redeemed! Disciplined, yes...Years in captivity, Yes...but restored!
>Luke 1:37 His word never fails Mary/Elizabeth He promised her and Abraham...it WILL happen!
>2 Peter 3:8 Day is like 1000 years
>2 Peter 3:9 God is not slow in keeping his promises

Applic: Are you waiting for something from the Lord today?

Has He spoken...and promised...but you haven't seen it yet?

Maybe it has been a LONG time...and you feel like it's never going to come...Never happen...HOLD ON!

If He spoke (and you better make sure it was HIM...not your desire) If He spoke...Hold on!

Don't give up...Don't despair...Don't grow weary in well doing...in DUE SEASON...You will see the harvest

CONC:

Are you prideful today? Did you hear still small voice of God: Come and pray...

Are you Standing on the Sidelines today when you KNOW God is calling you to Act?

Are you Harboring Anger and Bitterness...Come and Let it Go! Save yourself...and your Children!

Are you Waiting for God? Don't you give up? Don't stop...Keep asking...Seeking...Trusting!