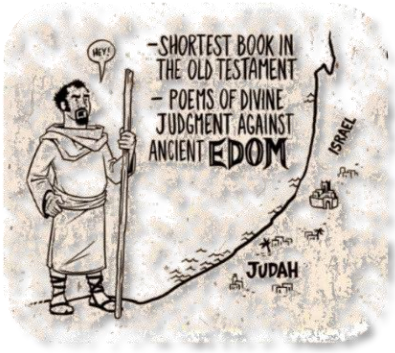
Sermon Notes

Serie:
BIG THINGS COMES IN SMALL PACKAGES
Title:
BOOK OF OBADIAH

A summary of Obadiah

[1] *The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Sovereign Lord says about Edom—We have heard a message from the Lord: An envoy was sent to the nations to say, "Rise, let us go against her for battle"*



Questions: *Who is Edom and Why should I care?*

- Edom and Israel are "brothers"
- Abraham- Isaac- Jacob (Israel)- 12 tribes of Israel- the Jewish people
- Esau (Edom) – The Idumeans including Herod the Great who tried to kill baby Jesus

➢ Cliff note history:

- **Genesis 25:19–34** - Esau and Jacob are born; Jacob gets his name changed to Israel- prince of one who wrestles with God and prevails. Esau sells his birthright and becomes Edom because of the red stew he chose over his birthright.
- **Genesis 27** - Jacob deceives Isaac and receives the blessing intended for Esau. Esau intends to kill Jacob.
- **Genesis 32–33** - Jacob returns to the land and the brothers reconcile. Esau embraces Jacob.
- The brothers eventually form ancestral homelands. Edom settles in the south (now Jordan, the Negev) and Israel settles to the north of them.
- **Numbers 20:14–21 -** Israel is coming out of Egypt and asks Edom for permission to pass through their territory. Edom refuses.

That is significant because Israel is literally approaching its brother nation asking for passage.

- **Deuteronomy 2:4–8 / 23:7–8** - God tells Israel: Don't treat Edom like just another enemy.
- Why? "He is your brother."
- **2 Samuel 8:13–14** - David conquers Edom
- **1 Kings 11** - An Edomite prince named Hadad revolted against Israel, ruled by David's son, King Solomon, and restored Edomite independence.

➢ Prophecies of Judgment on Edom (verses 1-9)

v. 2 - "See, I will make you small among the nations; you will be utterly despised.
v. 3 - The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'
v. 4 - Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the Lord…
v. 8 - "In that day," declares the Lord, "will I not destroy the wise men of Edom, those of understanding in the mountains of Esau?
v. 9 - Your warriors, Teman, will be terrified, and everyone in Esau's mountains will be cut down in the slaughter.

Note: Obadiah 1–9 attacks Edom's pride and false security. They live in the mountains. They have defensible strongholds. They believe they're untouchable. Their attitude is basically*: "Who can bring us down?"*

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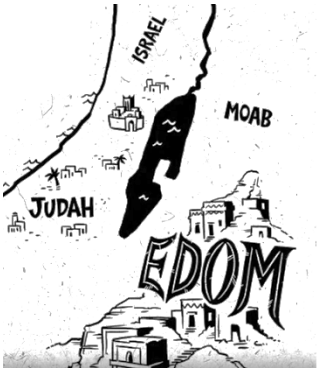
Geographical Context: Edom spanned a narrow mountainous strip about 100 miles long and 20 miles wide.

- Bounded by the Wadi Zered (Nahal Zered), which separated Edom from the neighboring kingdom of Moab.
- South: Extended down to the Gulf of Aqaba (Gulf of Elath) and the Red Sea
- East and West: Framed by the high, rocky ridges of Mount Seir on the east and the deep, arid rift valley of the Arabah on the west.

The location made them feel secure against surrounding enemy invasion.
Note: But… from there God would bring them down.



➢ Reasons for the Judgment on Edom (verses 10-14)

v. 10 - Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.

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

v. 12 - You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble.

v. 13 - You should not march through the gates of my people in the day of their disaster, nor gloat over them in their calamity in the day of their disaster, nor seize their **wealth in the day of their disaster.**

v. 14 - You should not wait at the crossroads to cut down their fugitives, nor hand over their survivors in the day of their trouble.

Historical Note: Edom continually formed alliances with Israel's enemies. They participated in the Babylonian conquest of Judah, glorifying Judah's defeat, and occupied the Promised Land of southern Judah after the fall of Jerusalem in 586/7 BC and brought judgment on themselves. (Psalm 137:7; Ezekiel 25:12; 35:12-15; Amos 1:11-12; Obadiah).

- Obadiah 10–14 describes what Edom did when Jerusalem fell.
- Babylon attacks Jerusalem. Judah is devastated. And Edom watches.
- But they don't merely watch.
- Obadiah gives us a progression: indifference → gloating → opportunism → participation.

v. 11 - You stood aloof.
v. 12 - You gloated.
v. 13 - You entered the city and took advantage of the disaster.
v. 14 - You kept the fugitives from fleeing and handed them over.

Edom saw their brother lying wounded and thought: "Not my problem."
Then: Good for us…What can we get out of this?..

Question: "Why should I care?" - Because isn't just about Edom. It is about all nations and individuals.

v. 15 - "The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head… **"Your deeds will return on your own head"**

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The Assyrians had occupied Israel. The Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem.
But Edom is still judged. **Why?**
Because when their brother was suffering, they stood at a distance. And then they benefited from it.

Obadiah teaches us that:

- Violence isn't simply using the sword. It is standing aside.
- Nations are not only judged for the sin that causes wounds and suffering. They are also judged for walking past suffering… even those we have convinced ourselves are our enemies.
- Indifference creates space for injustice to flourish.

Indifference always leads to injustice. And injustice has no place in the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God will bring justice to the Earth. And the good news is this book ends with a promise relating to that Kingdom.

v.21 - Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord's.

The Kingdom… all kingdoms of this earth shall one day belong to the LORD. There will not be one square inch that identifies as America or Russia or Mexico or Venezuela when King Jesus returns. There will be one King because all of the Kingdom's will be the Lord's.
And as followers of Jesus we are not waiting for that Kingdom to come before we live as Kingdom citizens. We are citizens of Heaven even as we are citizens of America.

➢ Note: Our IDENTITY is that of Citizens of the Kingdom. We may IDENTIFY as Americans.
America can tell us who our allies are. Politics can tell us who our opponents are. But Jesus tells us who our neighbors are. And everyone is the neighbor who we cannot be indifferent to.

- Our allegiance to Jesus is tested most when compassion asks us to care about people our national or political tribe has taught us not to care about
- The best test for our allegiance is not who we vote for but can we love those who vote differently.
- Our allegiance to King Jesus is proven when we refuse to be indifferent to the suffering of the world around us and the marginalized people who walk among us.

In fact,

- **Jesus reminds us**, that there will be a day when the sheep are divided from the goats- those that belong to Him and those who do not.
- **Jesus tells us** on judgment day that He will say to those on His left: "I was hungry and thirsty and naked and imprisoned and you didn't help me." And those on His left will say: "Lord when did we see you like that?" Jesus will respond, "Whatever you did NOT do to the least of these you also failed to do for me." (see Mat. 25:31-46)

So… let us live as people who belong to a different Kingdom. Kingdom people ask:

- "Who is hurting that I've decided isn't my problem because I quit seeing them as brothers or neighbors?"
  BTW: The Kingdom of God has no category called 'people whose suffering I am allowed to enjoy.'
- "What does love require of me now?"

Because Jesus doesn't merely tell us to stop being Edom. Jesus moves toward the wounded.

Edom sees wounded Jacob and moves toward the wounded to take advantage of him.
Jesus sees wounded humanity and moves toward us to save us.

- We were the wounded ones.
- We were the enemies.
- We were the ones Jesus had every right to leave behind.
- And He came toward us.

So perhaps the question Obadiah leaves us with isn't simply: **"How can I be less like Edom?"**
It's: "Because Jesus moved toward me, who is He asking me to move toward?"
Who will you move toward this week? Where have you become indifferent? Who have you decided isn't your problem?
And what is one step you can take out of indifference and toward love?
Because the kingdom will be the Lord's. And until that day, Kingdom people live like they already belong to the King.