

Outline of Obadiah  
*(from Jeffrey Niehaus)*

- I. Title (1a)
- II. Description of the Scene of Judgment (1b)
- III. Speech by the Judge (2-21)
  - A. Three Sentences (2-9)
  - B. Three Pronouncements of Guilt (10-14)
  - C. Sentence on the Nations (15-16)
  - D. Promise of Restoration (17-21)

## The Judgments of the Lord

*Obadiah, Part III*

Obadiah 10-16

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. The God who Judges (cf. Ps 96:11-13)

*God will not permit wickedness to flourish forever; He will not permit unrighteousness to continue indefinitely; He will cause righteousness and justice to be known in the earth.*

### II. Three Charges Against Edom

- A. Violence against Jacob (10)
- B. Collaborating with Jacob's enemies (11)
- C. Gloating over Jacob's Judgment (12-16 cf. Ps 137:7)



Edom's actions against Jacob were not minor – this was a major betrayal in which Edom sought the complete and utter annihilation of her brother.

Why shouldn't Edom have acted this way? Because God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the nations and causes every nation to give an answer for its treatment of His people.

### III. Application

- A. God's Judgments are Never Arbitrary
  - 1. God is Just (Gen 18:25; Ps 7:11-13; Rom 3:6)

The reason that God's judgments are never arbitrary is because God is just. The foundation for just judgment is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

God's moral law is an expression of His own character. Therefore, He takes His moral law seriously and when individuals or cities or nations despise His law and despise justice, He acts to uphold the honor of His Name (Ps 7:11-13):

*God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If [the wicked man] does not turn back, God will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.*

## 2. God's Judgments are Just

### a. Principle of Reciprocity (Ps 9:16; Pr 1:18-19; 26:27; Jas 2:13)

God is just; therefore, His judgments are always just. His judgments are never arbitrary. He brings their wickedness *back on their own heads*. *God's judgments always fit the sin*. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ to His judgments. Psalm 9:16, "*The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.*"

### b. Reciprocity & Historical Judgments (cf. Is 33:1; Jer 50:29-32)

This theme of reciprocity is revealed in God's historical judgments, the type Obadiah sees. Isaiah invokes this principle against the wicked: "*Woe to you who plunder, though you have not been plundered; And you who deal treacherously, though they have not dealt treacherously with you! When you cease plundering, You will be plundered; When you make an end of dealing treacherously, They will deal treacherously with you*" (33:1).

### c. Reciprocity & Eternal Judgment (Jn 5:28-29; Ac 17:31; 2 Cor 5:10)

Reciprocity will also be evident in the final judgment. We will reap what we have sown. On the Last Day, no one will say to God, "*What have you done? Why are you judging in that way?*" Why not? Because God's justice will be manifest to all.

## B. God's Judgments are Universal (cf. Is 34:5, 8; Joel 2)

We associate the phrase "*day of the Lord*" exclusively with the Final Judgment. While it is used this way, the Scriptures also use this phrase to refer to times of judgment *in* \_\_\_\_\_. Throughout history, specific peoples have experienced a "*day of judgment*."

### 1. Judgment begins with the household of God (cf. 1 Pet 4:17)

God is a just God. He takes sin seriously – especially when that sin is found among His people, among the visible Church. We cannot call the world to repentance if we are not repentant. So when God's Church becomes complacent and corrupt, He judges.

### 2. Judgment includes all nations (1 Pet 4:17-19)

But there is not only a "\_\_\_\_\_" for the people of God, there is also a "\_\_\_\_\_" appointed for all the nations of the earth.

*For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

## C. God's Judgments Demand Moral Duties (Ps 11:4-7; 67:3-4)

## IV. Conclusion