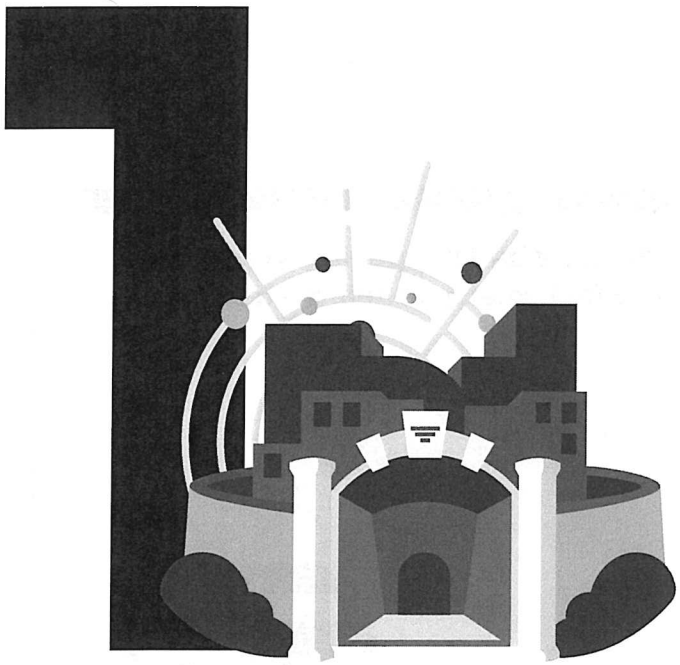


Unit .17

Session .01

The Vision of Future Justice

Scripture

Obadiah 1-4,10-21

1 The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Lord God has
said about Edom: We have heard a message from the
Lord; an envoy has been sent among the nations: "Rise
up, and let us go to war against her." **2** Look, I will make
you insignificant among the nations; you will be deeply
despised. **3** Your arrogant heart has deceived you, you who
live in clefts of the rock in your home on the heights, who
say to yourself, "Who can bring me down to the ground?"
4 Though you seem to soar like an eagle and make your
nest among the stars, even from there I will bring you
down. This is the Lord's declaration. ... **10** You will
be covered with shame and destroyed forever because of
violence done to your brother Jacob. **11** On the day you
stood aloof, on the day strangers captured his wealth,while
foreigners entered his city gate and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were just like one of them. **12** Do not gloat over your
brother in the day of his calamity; do not rejoice over the
people of Judah in the day of their destruction; do not
boastfully mock in the day of distress. **13** Do not enter
my people's city gate in the day of their disaster.Yes, you—
do not gloat over their misery in the day of their disaster,
and do not appropriate their possessions in the day of
their disaster. **14** Do not stand at the crossroads to cut
off their fugitives, and do not hand over their survivors
in the day of distress. **15** For the day of the Lord is near,
against all the nations. As you have done, it will be done
to you; what you deserve will return on your own head.
16 As you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the
nations will drink continually. They will drink and gulp
down and be as though they had never been. **17** But there
will be a deliverance on Mount Zion, and it will be holy;
the house of Jacob will dispossess those who dispossessed
them. **18** Then the house of Jacob will be a blazing fire,
and the house of Joseph, a burning flame,but the house
of Esau will be stubble; Jacob will set them on fire and
consume Edom. Therefore no survivor will remain of the
house of Esau, for the Lord has spoken. **19** People from
the Negev will possess the hill country of Esau; those from
the Judean foothills will possess the land of the Philistines.
They will possess the territories of Ephraim and Samaria,
while Benjamin will possess Gilead. **20** The exiles of
the Israelites who are in Halah and who are among the
Canaanites as far as Zarephath as well as the exiles of
Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the cities of the
Negev. **21** Saviors will ascend Mount Zion to rule over the
hill country of Esau, but the kingdom will be the Lord's.

His Story

Have you ever heard or witnessed something bad happening to someone you considered an enemy? How did you feel when you heard what happened? Why?

How does our culture tend to view the idea of God's judgment? How are you tempted to respond to God's judgment?

99 Essential Doctrines

God is Just

God established standards for His moral creatures that are in accordance with His righteousness, and His moral creatures will be judged according to those righteous standards (Lev. 11:44-45; Rom. 2:5-11; 2 Cor. 5:10). It would be an injustice if God were not to uphold His righteousness, for such a failure would require God to violate His own righteous character. Since humanity has sinned by failing to live up to God's righteous standards, God has taken it upon Himself to make provision by being both just and the justifier of those who place their faith in Christ (Rom. 3:25-26).

Main Point

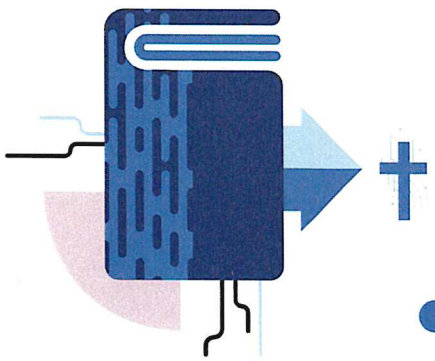
God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Is your response more consistent with culture's view or with the Bible? Explain.

Is it strange to think of warnings of judgment as compassionate? Why?

His Story

How should the promise of God's restoration of all creation motivate us to share with others God's judgment of sin and promise of salvation?



Christ Connection

The prophet Obadiah was given a vision of the day of the Lord. On that day Edom and the nations would be judged for their sins and Israel would be delivered and live securely in the land. Through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, all those who trust in Christ are spared from judgment and can live securely, knowing they have been delivered from sin and death.

Our Mission

Head

What does this account teach us about the dangers of being arrogant?

How easy is it for you to receive criticism? Would you rather receive criticism from someone who knows you well, or from someone someone that doesn't? Why?

Heart

Why should God's grace through Jesus serve as a means to develop humility within us?

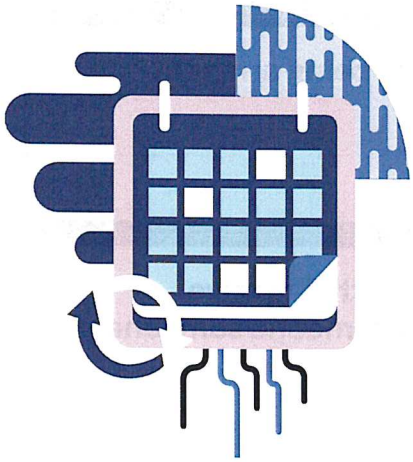
What are some other means of grace God might use to humble us?

Hands

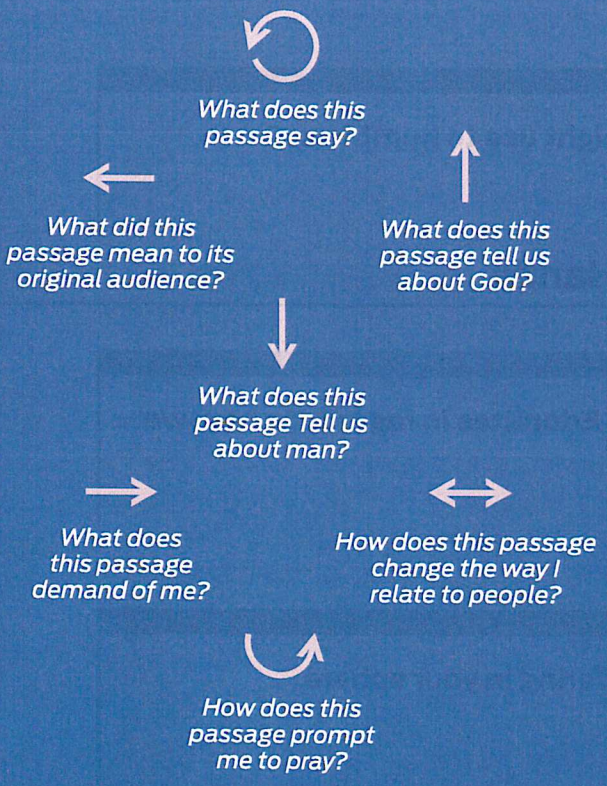
What can we learn from the mistakes of the Edomites in regards to how we should treat people in distress?

How can you show compassion to those suffering in your sphere of influence?

Daily Devotions



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day 1

Obadiah 1-4

You may have never read or even heard of the small Old Testament book Obadiah, but through its warnings against the arrogance of Edom and the hope of restoration reminds us of an important truth: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

God inspired every page of the Bible, and every word is meant for our good and growth in godliness. That includes Obadiah, which powerfully points us to God's compassion and mercy, even as it condemns the sinful deeds of the arrogant. Every word of Scripture points us to the good news of the gospel, showing us the reason for the hope we have in Christ. May it never be said of us that we left a page of Scripture unturned and missed an opportunity to glory in Christ. Instead, let us rejoice in every word, and feast on every page, as we see Jesus on every page—even the obscure ones like Obadiah.

Have you ever participated in a Bible reading plan that covers the entire Bible? If not, find one this week that interests you and dive into covering every book of the Bible in a year.

Day 2

Jeremiah 49:7-22

Obadiah was not the only warning against Edom's arrogance. Jeremiah's prophecy was also a strong condemnation of their evil. But Jeremiah doesn't stop with condemnation—He also called them to run and turn back! This is an example of God's compassion toward sinners. Because He desires that people repent and be saved, He calls for us to flee from sin. He brings what is done in the darkness to light, and then calls us to walk in that light (1 John 1:5-7).

God continues to do this today. As we read His Word, the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. As we walk in relationship with other believers, we speak truth into one another's lives, and we carry one another's burdens as we pursue holiness. The conviction that comes in the moment is rarely comfortable. But the freedom that results from repentance is sweet.

Who is someone that speaks difficult truth into your life?

Day 3

Obadiah 10-14

Edom and the nations had sinned against Judah and against God, and the Day of the Lord would come against them. But the promise of retribution was not the entirety of Obadiah's message. God also promised restoration for His people. He would make them holy. And greater still, He would come and establish His kingdom for all to see. Imagine what it must have been like first to hear these words. God's people had never had a history of unfailing faithfulness. Throughout the Old Testament, God was continually calling His people to repentance, to turn away from the sin that ensnared them. The situation they found themselves in was the fruit of years of rebellion against God. Yet even as He disciplined them, God had not abandoned them. He would restore His people, and better still, He would ultimately establish His rule over all the nations.

How does God's call to repentance challenge you today?

Day 4

Obadiah 15-18

The people of Israel had been devastated by the Babylonians. Jerusalem was burned to the ground. The temple was ruined. The people were murdered and those who were kept alive were taken as slaves. And through it all, the Babylonians—who had been used as instruments of judgment against God's wayward people—rejoiced. They delighted in the destruction they caused. But despite his harsh language, the psalmist was not wishing for vengeance in human terms. He was praying for God's justice. He was putting his trust in God's promise to repay the Babylonians for what they had done. He was trusting that God will deliver His people, as God had promised. Throughout this song of praise, he called the people to remember: Remember Jerusalem in your grief—and remember the Lord's promise of deliverance.

How are you able to remain hopeful when God seems indifferent?

Day 5

Obadiah 19-21

As much as Obadiah is a book about sin and judgment, it is one of hope. And as readers today, we have an even greater hope because we have seen the promise begin to come to fruition in Jesus. When Jesus—God Himself—began His earthly ministry, He declared, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!" (Mark 1:15). He came proclaiming "the good news of God" (1:14) and performing signs and wonders. He went to the cross and died in place of His people and was raised again from death. And God gave Him power and authority over all creation, and every knee "in heaven and on earth and under the earth" is commanded to bow before Him and "confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).

How does the gospel give you hope today?