

Obadiah

Compassion for the Fallen

Introduction

Question: When have you been tempted to gloat over someone's downfall?

Obadiah is the OT's shortest book. It is unique among OT prophetic books in being directed against a foreign nation, without any oracles of judgment against either Israel or Judah. However, the purpose is more than to warn Edom of imminent judgment. It is to reassure God's people of His triumphant justice at work for them.

Obadiah

Question: How does verse 1 set the stage for this book?

Question: Summarize how Obadiah depicts the destruction of Edom in verses 1-9?

Question: What faults and weaknesses on the part of Edom does this passage emphasize?

Question: What particular sins of Edom are emphasized in verses 10-14? Why do you think these particular ones are singled out?

Question: We read in verse 15 that "the day of the Lord is near for all nations." What does this nearness mean personally for you?

Question: What is the thrust and emphasis of the promises towards God's people as given in verses 17-21?

Question: What special significance do you see in God's promises in verse 21?

Question: In the rich and striking imagery that marks Obadiah's words in this book, which images stand out most strongly to you?

Question: What does the book of Obadiah communicate most to you about the heart and character of God?

Reflection

How can you show sympathy and compassion toward someone who has fallen?