

Going Deeper Study Guide

The God Who Makes All Things Right

Obadiah 1:15–18

Main Truth: Because God is perfectly holy, just, and faithful, He alone will make all things right. Our hope is not found in taking matters into our own hands but in trusting His perfect justice, holy deliverance, and complete victory.

Key Passage

Obadiah 1:15–18 (ESV)

"For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you... But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape... The house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions... For the LORD has spoken."

Sermon Overview

Obadiah reminds God's people that although evil may appear to prosper, God has never lost control. Edom's pride, cruelty, and lack of compassion seemed to go unanswered—but God's justice was only delayed, never forgotten.

Patrick emphasized that when we begin to think God is "small," life quickly becomes overwhelming. We begin to believe evil is winning, compassion dies, and hopelessness grows. But God is never diminished by our circumstances. The God who rules over nations also rules over every detail of our lives.

The Lord makes all things right in three ways:

- His justice is certain.
- His deliverance is holy.
- His victory is complete.

Because He has spoken, His promises are as certain as if they have already happened.

Digging Into the Text

I. The Certainty of Divine Retribution

Obadiah 1:15–16

"As you have done, it shall be done to you."

The "Day of the Lord" points beyond Edom's destruction to God's final judgment over all nations.

Edom believed they had escaped justice because judgment was delayed. Yet delay is never the same as denial.

God's justice is rooted in His very character. Because He is holy, He cannot simply overlook sin.

Cross References

- Exodus 34:6–7
- Psalm 37:1–13
- Romans 2:5–11
- 2 Peter 3:8–10
- Revelation 20:11–15

Consider

- Why does delayed justice often tempt us to think God is inactive?
- What does God's patience accomplish?
- How is God's justice different from human revenge?

II. The Holiness of Divine Deliverance

Obadiah 1:17

"But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape..."

God never sacrifices one attribute for another.

He never shows mercy by abandoning justice.

He never executes justice apart from perfect mercy.

Throughout Israel's discipline, God preserved a faithful remnant because His covenant promises could not fail.

The exile was real discipline—but it was never abandonment.

Cross References

- Isaiah 10:20–22
- Romans 11:1–6
- 1 Kings 19:18
- Nehemiah 1
- Hebrews 12:5–11

Consider

- What is the difference between God's discipline and His wrath?
- How does God preserve His people during seasons of suffering?
- Why is God's holiness actually comforting?

III. The Completeness of Divine Victory

Obadiah 1:18

God promises that Jacob will ultimately triumph over Esau.

Historically this happened in part.

Ultimately it points forward to Christ's complete victory over sin, Satan, death, and the grave.

Every Old Testament victory anticipates the greater victory accomplished by Jesus.

The sermon emphasized that God often works through human means while remaining completely sovereign over every outcome.

Cross References

- Genesis 3:15
- Colossians 2:13–15
- Hebrews 2:14–15
- 1 Corinthians 15:54–58
- Revelation 21:1–5

Consider

- Why are Old Testament victories only partial?
- How does Jesus fulfill what Obadiah foreshadows?
- What victories are believers still waiting to see completed?

Theology Matters

The Day of the Lord

Throughout Scripture, the Day of the Lord refers both to historical acts of God's judgment and to the final return of Christ.

Obadiah "telescopes" these events together—Edom's judgment previews the ultimate judgment of every nation.

Read:

- Joel 2

- Zephaniah 1
- Matthew 25
- Revelation 19–20

God's Justice and Mercy Meet at the Cross

One of the sermon's central themes is that God forgives sinners without compromising His justice.

How?

Only through Christ.

At the cross:

- God's justice is fully satisfied.
- God's wrath is poured out.
- God's mercy is freely given.
- God's holiness is upheld.

Read:

- Romans 3:21–26
- Isaiah 53
- 2 Corinthians 5:21

God's Covenant Faithfulness

Although Judah deserved discipline, God preserved them because He had promised to bring the Messiah through Judah.

God's faithfulness rested on His covenant—not Israel's performance.

This points us to the New Covenant, where Christ secures our salvation completely.

Read:

- Genesis 12
- Genesis 15
- 2 Samuel 7
- Hebrews 8

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. Where am I tempted to believe evil is winning?
2. How have I mistaken God's patience for God's absence?
3. Do I trust God to judge rightly, or do I want to take revenge myself?
4. How does knowing Christ has already won the decisive victory change my daily struggles?
5. Where is God calling me simply to wait on Him?
6. Am I resting more in God's character or my circumstances?
7. What does God's covenant faithfulness teach me about my security in Christ?

Family Worship Guide

Read Together

- Obadiah 1:15–18
- Romans 12:17–21
- Revelation 21:1–5

Big Idea

God always makes what is wrong right—in His perfect time and through Jesus Christ.

Discuss

For younger children

- Who is the Judge of everyone?
- Why can we trust God to be fair?
- What does it mean to wait on God?
- Why don't we have to get revenge?

For older children

- Why does evil sometimes seem to win?
- What is the difference between justice and revenge?
- How did Jesus defeat sin and death?
- How does God's faithfulness encourage us when life seems unfair?

Family Challenge

This week, every time something feels unfair:

Pause.

Pray together:

"Lord, help us trust that You make all things right in Your perfect time."

Then read Romans 12:19 and remind one another that vengeance belongs to the Lord.

Memory Verse

Romans 12:19 (ESV)

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'"

Prayer

Father, thank You that You are never unjust and never forget Your promises. When evil seems to prosper, help us remember that Your justice is certain, Your deliverance is holy, and Your victory is complete through Christ. Teach us to wait patiently, walk faithfully, and trust You completely until the day when You make all things new. In Jesus' name, Amen.