

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BUENA PARK

EDITION 192

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OBADIAH: The name means "servant of Jehovah." He is one of four prophets about whom we know absolutely nothing except that he wrote prophecy. The other three are Habakkuk, Haggai, and Malachi. Although we don't know much about Obadiah, we do know that he lived up to his name as being a servant. A servant boasts of no genealogy neither exploits nor experiences. Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament but it has a potent message that can be geared into this day in which we are living.

The little kingdom of Edom is the subject of this brief prophecy and verse 6 is the key verse: "But how Esau will be ransacked, his hidden treasures pillaged." This is the same Esau we first met back in the book of Genesis and if you turn the Genesis 36 you will find the descendants of Esau (that is Edom). The Edomites were those who were descended from Esau just as the Israelites are those descended from Jacob. The story of Esau is that of twin brothers, sons of Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 25). The Lord told Rebekah that two nations were in her womb and the older (Esau) would serve the younger. These two brothers struggled and Esau never did attain any of the spiritual discernment that Jacob possessed. In fact, Esau so despised his birthright that he sold it to his brother Jacob for a bowl of soup. Basically Esau was saying he would rather have a bowl of soup than a relationship with God. I guess that's why we find that familiar passage in the book of Malachi where the Lord says "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals." Esau and his nation turned their back on God because of pride. In verse 3 of Obadiah's prophecy we read these words: "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." These folks lived in a very unique place, the rock-hewn city of Petra. They felt very secure in this location from their enemies and didn't even think they needed God. What is pride? Pride of the heart is the attitude of a life that declares its ability to live without God. Pride is one of the worst sins of all and in fact it is listed first in the book of Proverbs when the writer lists the six things the Lord hates.

Nebuchadnezzar was able to get spies inside the rock-hewn city and it fell. If you read this brief prophecy of Obadiah, you will find it was literally fulfilled as Edom was utterly destroyed.

In the final verses (17-21), we come to the second and last major division of this book and it concerns the nation of Israel. For Edom it was destruction but for Israel it is to be restoration. God's plan and program will be carried out, and we will do well to be on His side.

BIBLE QUIZ

In the time of Jesus, there was a very well known person that scripture identifies as _____, the Idumaeon, the Edomite, in the line of Esau. Can you name this man?

A LITTLE HUMOR (you might be a missionary if...)

You refer to gravel roads as highways---you know how to pack---you realize that a furlough is not a vacation---you sort friends by continent---fitting 15 or more people into a car seems normal to you---you consider a city 500km away to be very close---you don't think 2 hours is a long sermon.

NEWS & EVENTS AT CCC

Pastor Doug leaves 9-6 for his annual Prayer Retreat in Montana; get your prayer requests to him ASAP.

YOUTH SERVICE DAY ON 9-11 (NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE & REMEMBRANCE) from 8:30 – noon. Volunteer at Giving Children Hope.

9-15 our full Wednesday night program begins again at 6:00pm with the Christ Community Cuisine.

9-16 at 1:00 is SOCIABLE SENIORS

Sunday 9-19 Pastor Doug begins a new 8 week adult class at 9:00am

CHURCH ATTENDANCE---Please make this a priority so we can fill the sanctuary every Sunday morning and enjoy our time together even more.

CCC WEBSITE is a great resource of information including a copy of the Men's Ministry Newsletter.

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR THOSE FACING DIFFICULT MEDICAL ISSUES
FOR THOSE RECOVERING FROM SURGERY & GOING THROUGH REHAB
FOR OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY
FOR IMPROVED CHURCH ATTENDANCE
FOR A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR
FOR PASTOR DOUG'S ANNUAL PRAYER RETREAT

RON ANDERSON, EDITOR

Answer to Bible Quiz: King Herod