Insights From Obadiah

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Insights From Obadiah

by Jonathan Cooper

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper 4/29/2024

Table of Contents

Introduction	 4
Obadiah	 7

Obadiah

- This book is a vision that God gave to Obadiah about Edom (Obadiah 1:1).
- There are times when God stirs up enemies against a nation and sends war upon them (Obadiah 1:1-4). God decides the fate of nations, for He rules over all of them.
- God used His divine power to make the Edomites a small and despised nation (Obadiah 1:2). The Lord controls both the size of nations and their reputation. He has the power to raise nations up and tear them down. He can make them small or large, honored or despised, as He sees fit.
- God used male pronouns when talking about the Edomite nation (Obadiah 1:3). This is different from the female pronouns that He used when talking about Israel throughout the Old Testament. It seems the reason He did this was because He viewed them as an extension of Esau (Obadiah 1:6).
- The Lord is able to bring down any nation no matter how high it reaches (Obadiah 1:4). It's impossible to reach such a high and lofty position that God can't humble you.
- In this book God pronounced judgment upon a Gentile nation that He didn't have a covenant relationship with (Obadiah 1:5). God hold all nations accountable and punishes them for their sins – both Jew and Gentile.
- God was going to utterly destroy the Edomites and leave absolutely nothing behind (Obadiah 1:5). There would be no surviving remnant. Every single one of them would be killed. There would be no survivors (Obadiah 1:9) and they would never return to their land (Obadiah 1:10).

- The reason God decided to completely annihilate the Edomites was because of the violence they inflicted upon the Jews (Obadiah 1:10). Esau was Jacob's brother. The Edomites were the descendants of Esau and the Jews were the descendants of Jacob. Yet the Edomites hated the Jews and fought against them for centuries. God was going to kill all of the Edomites as punishment for what they did to the Jews.
- The prophecy in Obadiah was going to be fulfilled at a time when the Edomites had a proud and lofty position, when they were part of a confederacy, and when God stirred up Gentile nations to despise and deceive them (Obadiah 1:1-7). At that time the Edomites would be destroyed in battle and nothing would be left of them at all.
- God has the ability to remove wisdom from nations (Obadiah 1:8). The Lord can make a nation's leaders wise or foolish. He's the one who decides if nations make wise or foolish decisions. Wisdom comes from Him and He can either give it or take it away. One of the ways God destroys nations is by taking wisdom away from them.
- The prophecy mentions Teman, a city in Edom (Obadiah 1:9). Teman was Esau's grandson (Genesis 36:8-11).
- This prophecy is connected to "the day of the Lord" (Obadiah 1:15). That phrase appears throughout the Old Testament and refers to the seven-year tribulation period which will take place in the end times. That means this is an end times prophecy and wasn't fulfilled in ancient times. This is supported by the fact that God promised to use Israel to kill all of the Edomites (Obadiah 1:18), but that's not how the Edomites were defeated in ancient times. This points to a future reappearance of the

Edomites.

- This prophecy speaks of a time when God will deliver the Jews, fill their land with holiness, give them both great possessions and the territory of their enemies, and give them peace. All of these things point to the millennium – the thousand-year reign of Christ in this world (Obadiah 1:17-21). This is more evidence that this prophecy is connected to the end times, not ancient times.
- God was going to utterly destroy the Edomites and give their territory to the Jews. Those who lived in the south of Israel would possess mount Edom (Obadiah 1:19).
- When this prophecy is fulfilled and the Jews possess mount Edom, there will be saviors (plural) who will go to the holy mountain of Zion to judge the mountain of Esau (Edom). This also points to the millennium (Obadiah 1:21).